SUNDAY BIZ /B1

Not like the poor, little rich girl: Vivienne Tan, Lucio Tan's daughter, works hard for the money to teach entrepreneurship to the youth.

ENTERTAINMENT/ L1

IN Hollywood grab bag: Tom Cruise surprise guest at 'Devil Wears Prada' party in LA; Will Smith's son steals show; Jane Seymour caught up in Pacquiao fever

IMAGINE
John Lennon
Dec. 8, 1980

GLOBAL PINOY /A27

'Happy Slip:' Growing up Pinoy and wacky in America on the wonderful world wide web

Storm-lashed RP loses typhoon committee post

35 YEARS NA TAYO SA POSISYON, GONE WITH THE WIND NA?!

By Blanche S. Rivera

A TYPHOON COMMITTEE does not stir up storms or blow away international summits.

It is a committee of 14 countries in the World Meteorological Organiza-

STORM-LASHED/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Sunday, December 10, 2006 ★★ 15 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 2 P18 website: inquirer.net

'Seniang' strengthens, tears into Samar, Leyte

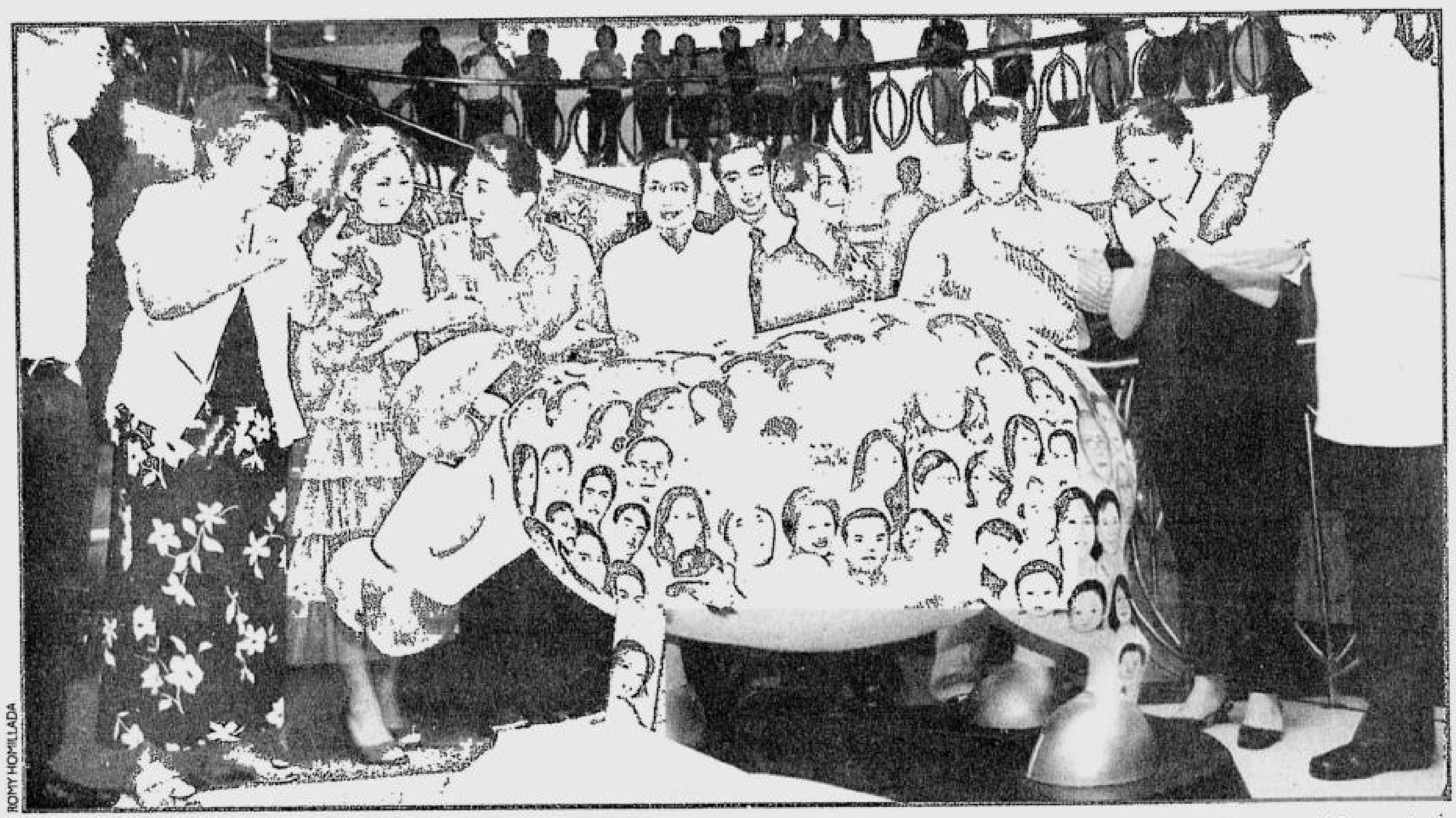
By Inquirer Visayas
and Inquirer Southern Luzon

TACLOBAN CITY—AS THOUGH THE DEVASTATION of the past week were not enough, Storm "Seniang" strengthened into a typhoon early yesterday and caused massive power outages, landslides and floods in Leyte and Samar.

Packing maximum winds of 120 kilometers

SENIANG/ A6

GMA: Stop Con-ass now



ROMY HOMILLADA

STILL NO. 1 AT 21: The INQUIRER had 21 reasons to celebrate its 21st anniversary on Friday. Though considerably subdued in deference to "Reming's" victims, a good time was had by all. Some well-wishers led by Vice President Noli de Castro dropped by, from left, Charlie Rufino, PDI director; columnists Solita Monsod and Tessa P. Valdes, Marixi P. Prieto, board chair, Pat Garcia, treasurer; Jesse Andres, Mikhael Motus, winner of the Guyito painting contest; De Castro, Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, president/CEO, and Isagani Yambot, publisher.

Cabinet in disarray over retreat

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THIS COMES DIRECT FROM the Palace.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had instructed her political affairs adviser Gabriel Claudio on Friday to "order" the lawmakers allied with her to drop the constituent assembly (Con-ass) as a means of changing the Constitution, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday.

The President's sudden withdrawal of support for Con-ass in the face of mounting opposition from Church and local government leaders appeared to have left her Cabinet in disarray.

Michael Defensor, the President's chief of staff and who is touted to be her "favorite Cabinet secretary," said Ms Arroyo's withdrawal of support for Con-ass should give "a dose of reality" to members of the Cabinet who had been gung-ho about pushing this means of amending the Constitution.

Defensor refused to elaborate, but he was apparently referring to the Lakas clique in the Cabinet led by Ermita, Claudio, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

The clique was believed to have forced the resignation recently of Avelino Cruz as defense secretary.

Cruz had openly shown his disdain for the people's initiative mode of amending the Constitution that was actively being pushed by one of the leaders of the

GMA/ A10

JDV offers Con-con; sets deadline

By Michael Lim Ubac

FACED WITH MOUNTING PUBLIC anger, President Macapagal-Arroyo's allies in the House of Representatives yesterday all but abandoned their plan to convene a constituent assembly (Con-ass) to revise the Constitution themselves after she withdrew her support for it. *(See banner story).*

The decision to retreat from their announced timetable of convening a Con-ass soon marked the second defeat Malacanang and its backers had suffered in less than two months in their bid to overhaul the 19-year-old Charter and set up a parliamentary government with Ms Arroyo also at the helm.

Speaker Jose de Venecia said he and the majority in the House of Representatives "are now prepared" to call for a constitutional convention (Con-con) where the job of rewriting the Constitution would be carried out by a body of elected delegates.

De Venecia, in a phone interview with the INQUIRER, denied that planned nationwide protests against Con-ass next week had spurred the House majority's change of plans.

"Why should it be a defeat? We are trying to unite the nation," the Speaker said, when asked if the House majority's apparent turnaround in calling for a Con-con amounted to a political defeat for his group.

De Venecia made the new pitch for a Con-con at a press conference at Dusit Hotel in Makati City that turned rowdy after a militant leader opposed to Con-ass and a newspaper columnist nearly came to blows. *(See story on Page A8.)*

The House majority's earlier decision

JDV/ A8

Senators dismiss Speaker's ultimatum

By Philip C. Tubeza

SENATE PRESIDENT MANUEL Villar yesterday dismissed Speaker Jose de Venecia's 72-hour deadline for the senators to agree to a constitutional convention (Con-con), saying the House leader was only looking for a "face-saving" exit after the failure of his Malacañang-backed move to rewrite the Constitution.

Villar said that President Macapagal-Arroyo and her allies had apparently realized the extent of public outrage against their efforts to revise the Charter through a constituent assembly.

Villar said that the senators would discuss privately tomorrow the House proposal to hold the Con-con after the May 2007 elections but he rejected De Venecia's ultimatum that the Senate should approve a resolution to that effect within the next three days.

"It's not proper for them to give the Senate a deadline. Nobody can impose a deadline on the Senate," he said.

"I think the President realized the extent of the public backlash they were creating. She wants to pursue (Charter change) but not to the extent of risking her presidency," Villar said in the interview.

SENATORS/ A8

IN-YOUR-FACE: During the emotionally charged De Venecia presscon on Saturday, activist Renato Constantino Jr. (left) and INQUIRER business columnist Victor Agustin nearly come to blows after the latter threw a glass of water at the former. *(Story on page A8)*

RAFFY LERMA

Due to the deluge of entries received for the contest "What did Eggie tell Letty that made her laugh so hard?" we were [illegible] unable to announce the winners as originally scheduled on Dec. 9, the INQUIRER's 21st anniversary. We ask for your indulgence and patience. Every entry is carefully read and evaluated by Eugenia "Eggie" Duran-Apostol, Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc and Dennis Leung, product manager for circulation and readership of PDI marketing. We want to give every entry as much time as you, dear readers, gave us to "dare" answer the question of the INQUIRER. Winners for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes will be announced next Sunday. Until then, know that all your answers are appreciated and applauded.

WHAT'S INSIDE

The usual suspects: Don't harm protesters vs Con-ass, junior officers warn President Arroyo. They vow to counter 'push with push, force with force, fire with fire.'

NEWS / A2

Cebuanos' debut party on world stage on hold

By Fernando del Mundo

CEBU CITY—WHETHER IT WAS BEcause of a gathering storm, a terrorist threat or political fallout, the Cebuanos' coming-out party to welcome foreign leaders nearly half a millennium after a local warrior drove away foreign invaders is over—at least for now.

Hours after organizers announced on Friday the postponement to January of next week's Summit of Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the curtain fell on the stage show on Fuente Osmeña Park in the city center, the focal point of the people's nightly celebrations since Dec. 1.

The breakneck pace of last-minute preparations for the scheduled arrival today of foreign leaders for the 12th Asean Summit ground to a halt as some of the delegates already in Cebu City packed their bags and left under pouring rain.

The official reason for the postponement was an approaching storm in the Pacific, although the weather bureau said it was unlikely to hit Cebu directly.

Officials predictably dismissed widespread speculation that terrorist threats that had prompted the United States, Britain, Australia and Japan to issue an advisory to their citizens on Wednesday to avoid Cebu province was the reason for the decision.

But there were also fresh reports of restiveness in the Philippine military over attempts to ram through Congress initiatives to amend the Constitution, following a setback in the Supreme Court and the Senate's refusal to go along with it.

Said Tim Wright, general manager of Shangri-La Mactan Resort and Spa where the participants were to be billeted: "Obviously, we are a little disappointed. However, we appreciate that the safety of the leaders is of utmost importance."

Gwendolyn Garcia, 51, the governor

CEBUANOS'/ A10

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole of Visayas including Siargao island will have stormy weather with rough to very rough seas. Meanwhile, the Bicol region and Northern Mindanao will experience rains and gusty winds and the coastal waters of these areas will be moderate to rough.
SOURCE PAGASA

COMPILED BY LAW DE GUZMAN, INQUIRER RESEARCH/12/09/06

Second FRONT PAGE

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Metro Manila	Rainy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Stormy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Stormy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Rainy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Rainy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

GMA warned: Don't stop protesters

By Fe Zamora

A GROUP OF JUNIOR OFFICERS WHO CLAIMED to have followers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, particularly the Army and Marines nationwide, yesterday warned President Macapagal-Arroyo against causing "harm" to protesters who would march against the proposed Constitutional assembly, saying that they were prepared to counter "push with push, force with force, fire with fire."

In a statement to the INQUIRER, Kawal Pilipino said it saw a "constitutional coup" when allies of President Arroyo in the House of Representatives railroaded a resolution to amend the Constitution via a constitutional assembly (Con-ass).

"The nation is shocked and outraged. All the institutions of society are rising to protest this iniquity," said Kawal Pilipino, a group which consists of officers holding the rank of second lieutenant up to major.

"There is a widespread sentiment in the Armed Forces that we must protect the people and defend the Constitution from all abuses," an Army captain based south of Manila said in a telephone interview.

The officer had asked the INQUIRER to hide his identity for security reasons. He had been interviewed by the INQUIRER in the past.

"We have been told that huge rallies and marches will be taking place next week. We give fair warning to Malacañang, Congress and the police: Do not even think to scuttle them, do not even think to do the marchers harm. We will meet push with push, force with force, fire with fire," he said.

Kawal Pilipino first surfaced at a press conference in early 2004 where it warned about a grand plan to rig the May 2004 elections to ensure the victory of President Arroyo.

At least six Army captains were held at a military stockade and investigated on charges that they were involved in a seditious plot against the government. They have been dismissed, however.

"Our group has grown bigger after that incident, contrary to what the government has been saying that the Kawal Pilipino had been decimated," the Army captain added.

"We have members in every Army division. We are everywhere," he said.

According to him, Kawal Pilipino members were holding positions from company commander down to platoon leader. Those holding the rank of major were assigned as staff officers of divisions, brigades and battalions, he said.

Kawal Pilipino was organized in 2003, but it made its first public appearance only before the May 2004 election to warn about the administration's plan to ensure Ms Arroyo's continued stay in power.

More than 20 officers led by Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim are awaiting court-martial for their planned "withdrawal of support" from the Arroyo administration allegedly during the 20th anniversary of the 1986 People Power revolution in February this year.

A number of junior officers also remain in jail for demanding Ms Arroyo's resignation during the aborted Oakwood mutiny in July 2003.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, however, was undaunted by the plan of the Church, opposition and militant groups to stage mass actions against the House-only sponsored constitution assembly.

"We are not afraid of that. Let them try to do it," Gonzalez said in reaction to the fears raised by some of the President's allies that the Con-ass issue would unite enemies of the Arroyo administration to effect a "people power" type of uprising.

But he admitted that the planned protests had prompted Speaker Jose de Venecia to offer the senators the idea of amending the Charter through a constitutional convention.

"In effect the House here is yielding to them already," Gonzalez told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview from Iloilo.

But when asked whether the House had blinked on the Con-ass issue, Gonzalez said: "Not necessarily, but to show them that we are not that inflexible … we can accommodate them … we are open to other options."

He asked all sectors of society—including El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde—to take up De Venecia's proposal if only to unite the country. *With Armand N. Nocum*

Gloria insists Asean summit reset due to typhoon threat

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Nikko Dizon and Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO said the postponement of the Summit of Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) because of a typhoon threat was not a setback and assured the region that the conference would take place under "clearer skies" next month.

"There is a consensus to postpone the meeting because of the typhoon, but a strong impetus to return to the summit at the soonest possible time. The aspirations of 600 million people in East Asia cannot be put on hold," the President said in a statement yesterday.

"The Philippines gives its firm assurance that there has been no setback in the progress of the Asean agenda and process," she said.

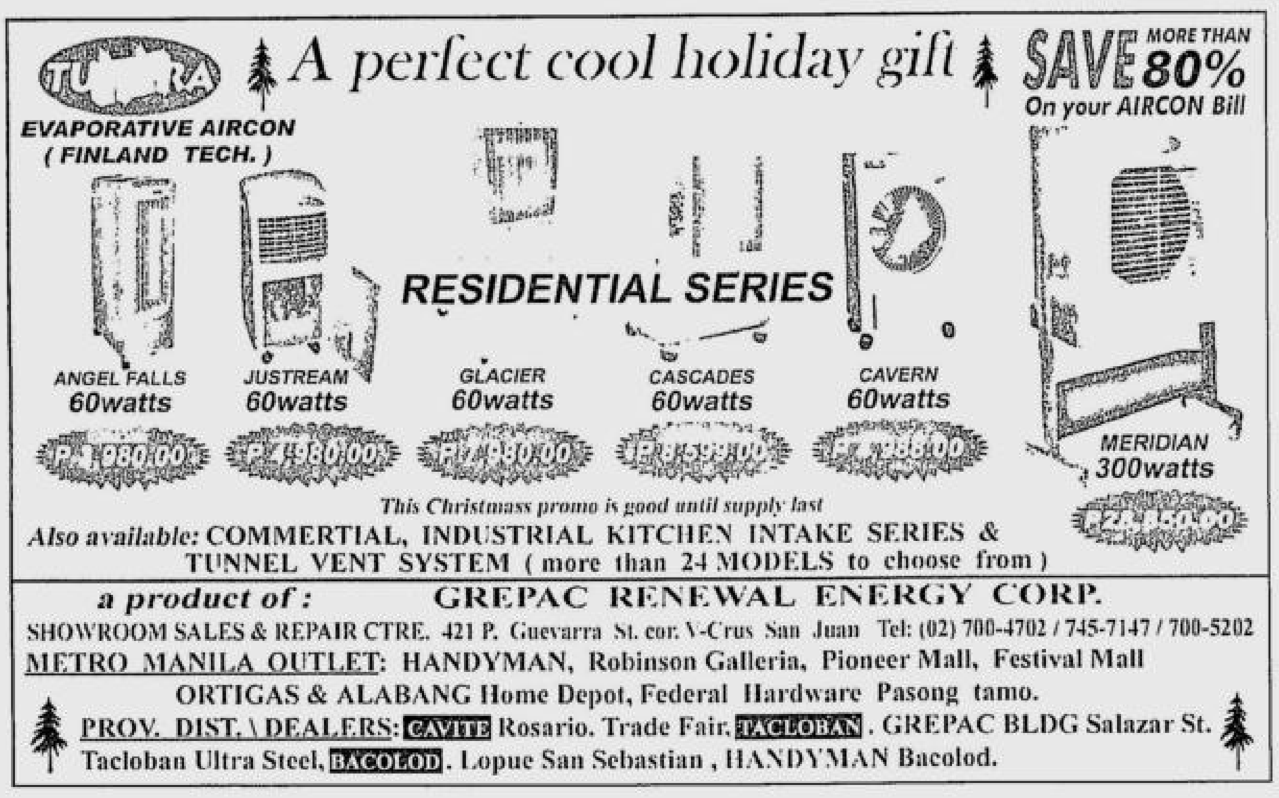
The President came out for the first time to explain the last-minute decision to suspend the summit on the eve of its opening.

"As chair of the Asean, the Philippines is responsible for the safety and well-being of the summit participants in the face of inclement weather. Our responsibility to the Filipino people also lies in preparing to the best we can for the possible onslaught of another strong typhoon," she said.

"This is a two-way process—we are concerned for the leaders and they are also concerned for our people truly in the spirit of a sharing and caring community. I thank the leaders for their understanding and support," she said.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the President approved the postponement because she might not be able to focus all her attention on the summit, particularly if the typhoon had the same devastating effect as the one that hit the Bicol region last week.

Ermita said the postponement was discussed briefly with visiting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who told the President that he fully understood her decision. *With Philip Tubeza and Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



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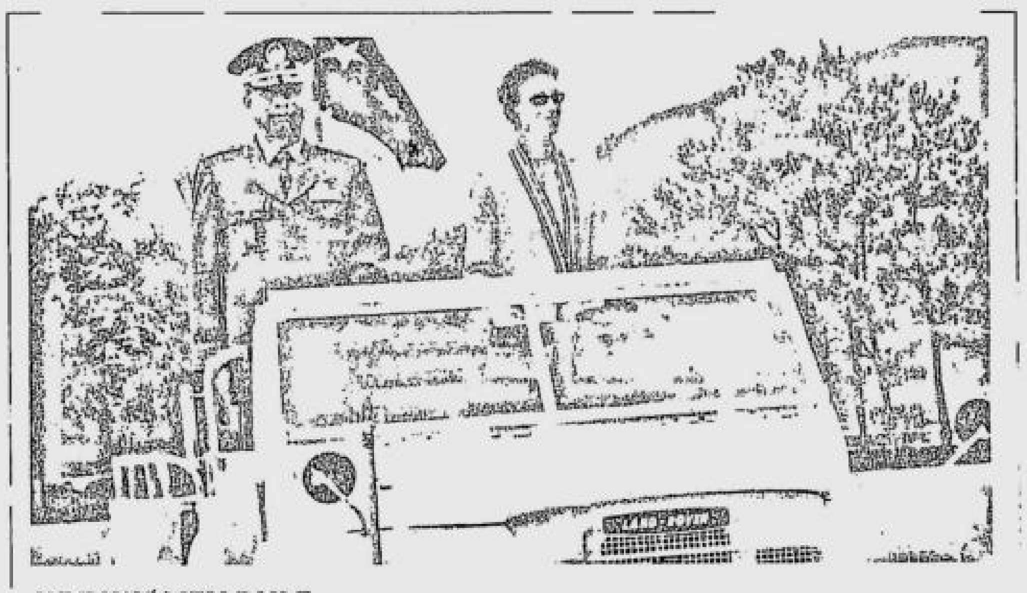

WHY WOMEN RULE

US Ambassador Kristie Kenney troops the line during the parade given in her honor by the Philippine Military Academy on Saturday. Kenney reminded the women cadets, who were allowed to enlist at the academy only since 1997, that "I am in a job now that was not performed by women. But today's world speaks to all of us as equals … It is what we (Filipinos and Americans) have in common that binds us and makes us great." VINCENT CABREZA/NORTHERN LUZON

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Asean nurses accord great boost to RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINES "WON BIG" IN THE SPECIAL meeting of economic ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as the 10-member bloc signed late Saturday night a Mutual Recognition Agreement on nurses, according to a senior trade official.

Ramon Vicente L. Kabigting, director of the Department of Trade and Industry's Bureau of International Trade Relations, said in an interview the signing of an MRA would translate to the deployment of more Filipino nurses—one of the country's biggest human resource exports—within the region.

Meeting an hour before midnight last Friday, the economic ministers also signed five documents that are expected to push forward the establishment of an Asean Economic Community as well as pave the way toward free trade with China.

The documents signed require only the ministers' signatures to be validated.

Asean groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Kabigting, who represented the Philippines in the senior economic officials meetings held in preparation for the abruptly postponed 12th Asean Summit, said the MRA would boost the country's drive to strengthen the "Philippine brand of nursing professionals."

Reconcile various standards

He explained that the MRA would help reconcile differing standards and regulations of the profession among the 10 countries and help ease the entry of Filipino nurses to the more developed members where demand is expected to outstrip local supply in the coming years.

The final draft of the Asean MRA on Nursing Services states that the pact "would strengthen professional capabilities by promoting the flow of relevant information and exchange of expertise, experience and best practices suited to the specific needs of" members.

Japan links loans to rights record

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

JAPAN IS PREPARED TO EXTEND FRESH loans to the Philippines, but the latter must address the worsening human rights situation in the country.

Visiting Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told President Macapagal-Arroyo on Saturday that Japan would provide an 8.5-billion yen ($73 million) loan for a flood damage control project for the Pasig-Marikina river.

Abe pushed through with his trip to Manila despite the postponement of the Asean summit in Cebu due to a typhoon. His two-day visit coincided with the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the Philippines and Japan.

The Prime Minister and his wife arrived at Malacañang at 9:10 a.m. and were welcomed by the President and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

After several signing ceremonies, the two leaders proceeded to the Pasay City terminal of the Light Railway Transit Authority for the ceremonial run of the Japan-made third generation of trains that would service the Caloocan City to Bacalaran route starting next week. *(See photo on Page A9.)*

The Palace held a state dinner for the Prime Minister at Malacañang's Rizal Hall last night.

The Japanese premier also assured Ms Arroyo that Japan would not dump its toxic wastes in the Philippines as claimed by environmentalists under a new trade pact between the two countries.

"Prime Minister Abe told the President not to worry about the toxic wastes because Japan would not dump them here. They are here to help our economy," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

A joint statement issued later suggested that Japan was tying the release of further loans to the Philippines to the unresolved killings of activists and journalists throughout the country that have hounded the President.

The joint statement stated: "The two leaders emphasized the importance of sustaining harmony, upholding democratic values and protecting human rights, as well as preserving the environment and social well-being with respect to general governance and to the implementation of the official development assistance."

On Friday, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso said in Cebu City that the Philippines must improve its human rights record as a condition to receiving more economic aid.

In talks on the sidelines of the canceled regional summit, Aso told his Philippine counterpart, Alberto Romulo, that while Tokyo wanted to extend more yen loans, there was concern in Japan over the politically motivated killings.

"In Japan, some people are extremely concerned about political killings in the Philippines, particularly those of leftist-oriented individuals and journalists," he was quoted as saying.

"In order for us to release more economic aid, I want the Philippines to understand the strong concerns among some people about the human rights record of the Philippines," he said.

Local human rights groups have alleged that more than 760 activists have been killed since Ms Arroyo came to power in 2001.

But the government has denied involvement in the killings, blaming many of them on factional fighting between leftist groups. *With an AFP report*

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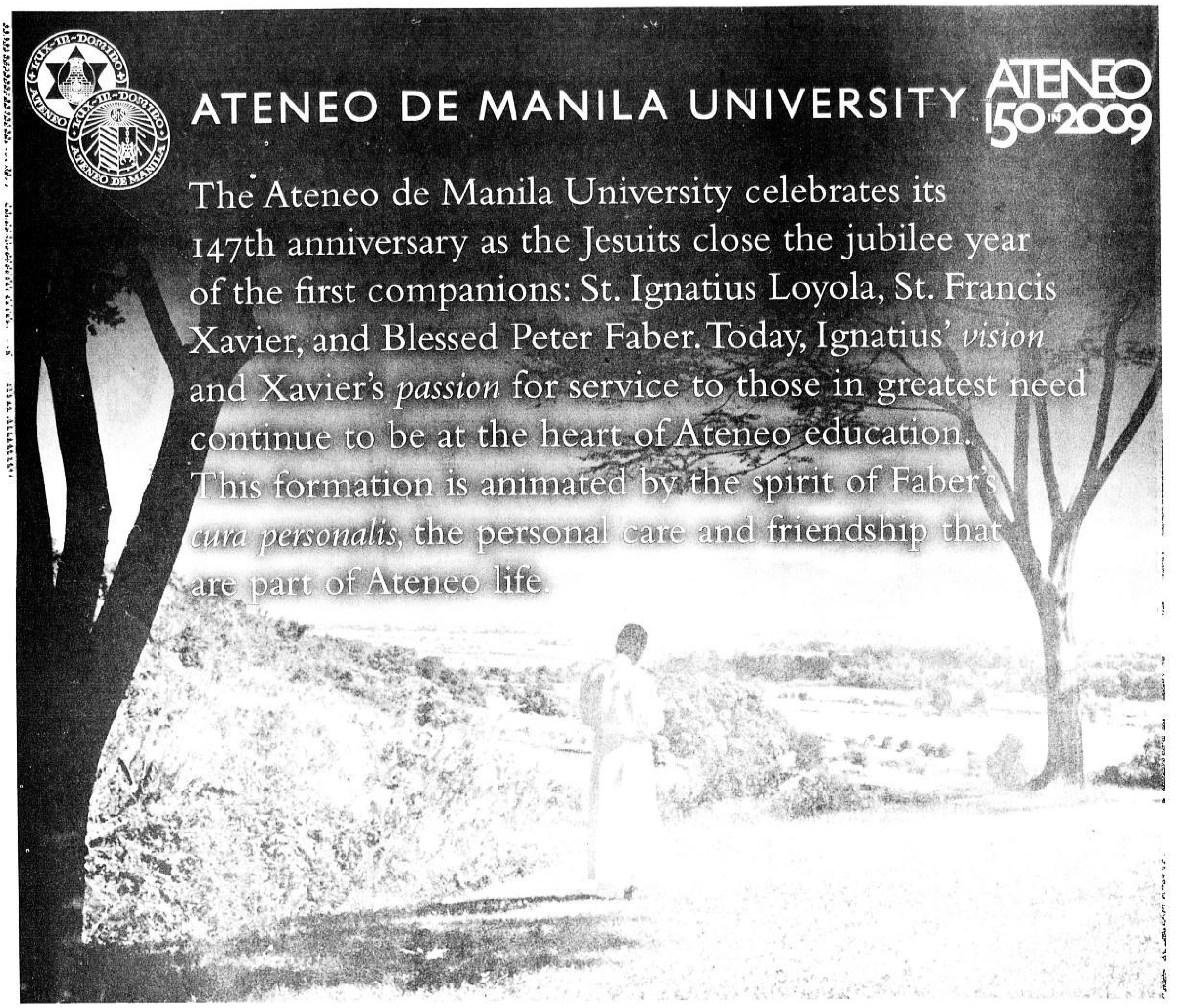


ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY

ATENEO 150 in 2009

The Ateneo de Manila University celebrates its 147th anniversary as the Jesuits close the jubilee year of the first companions: St. Ignatius Loyola, St. Francis Xavier, and Blessed Peter Faber. Today, Ignatius' *vision* and Xavier's *passion* for service to those in greatest need continue to be at the heart of Ateneo education. This formation is animated by the spirit of Faber's *cura personalis*, the personal care and friendship that are part of Ateneo life.

A balcony, a tomb, a letter: The gifts of the first Jesuits and formation at the Ateneo

Daniel Patrick L. Huang, S.J.
AB Interdisciplinary Studies '80
Provincial Superior
Society of Jesus
in the Philippines

A balcony in Rome. An empty tomb on an island off the coast of China. A letter written more than four hundred years ago. These three things symbolize, for me, the gifts of the first three Jesuit companions whose jubilee we celebrate this year. They are gifts the Ateneo de Manila hopes to share with all who become part of her life.

Attached to the magnificent Church of the Gesu in Rome are a few rooms visited with much veneration by all who belong to the Ignatian family, rooms where St. Ignatius Loyola lived, worked, and prayed as General of the fledgling Society of Jesus. Today, one finds there a little museum with Ignatian memorabilia, and a simple but elegant chapel. But, for me, most meaningful is a tiny balcony opening out of the chapel. In Ignatius' day, when he stepped out onto this balcony, as he often did in the evenings after a day filled with cares and work, he would see the expanse of the night sky.

Ignatius would look at the stars. He would gaze long and lovingly at the lights in the night sky, then sink to his knees, and bow his head in humble, grateful, awed prayer. This is an image of Ignatius's gift of *Vision*. He had the gift of "finding God in all things." In the stars, Ignatius met and "felt" God. The broad, star-studded night sky led him to encounter the immensity of God's power, the unrestricted embrace of God's plan for the world, yet also the intimacy and intensity of God's love for him. That limitless canvas of sky inspired in Ignatius that breadth of imagination that was never satisfied with the mediocre, with mere "maintenance," but always sought out the *Magis*, the "more," what was for the *greater* glory of God.

Off the southern coast of China, there is a small island called Shangchuan. Four hundred years ago, it was a quiet fishing village. Today, it is still little more than that, in striking contrast to the booming cities sprouting so quickly in today's hectic, development-driven China. A few kilometers out of a modest commercial center, on a hillside fronting the sea is a rundown chapel with an empty tomb. Here, we believe, was the place, where St. Francis Xavier, at the age of 46, died and was laid to rest for a few years, before parts of his body made their way all around the world again.

When I visited that tomb last July, I found myself spontaneously drawn to silent and prolonged prayer. I was moved at the pathos of Xavier's last moments. Here he died alone, half a world away from home, without his friends in Europe even knowing that he was *in extremis*. Here he died, after years of pioneering work of bringing the Good News to Asia: after baptizing till his arms ached in India; after traveling through the steaming jungles of Malacca; after enduring humiliation in Japan. And he died here, on this lonely island, precisely because, in order to win the peoples of Asia for Christ, he was convinced he had to do the impossible: enter the great and mysterious Empire of China and preach the Gospel there. He died with an unfulfilled dream, a longing unrequited.

That tomb is an image of Xavier's gift: his burning and intense *Passion*. Only that passion—for Christ, for the peoples of Asia, for service—could explain why Francis Xavier, scion of a noble family who grew up in a castle in Navarre, died alone and with arms outstretched toward China on desolate Shangchuan.

In 1546, a forty-year-old Jesuit from Savoy named Peter Faber was finishing up seven years of almost unceasing travel throughout a Europe torn by fierce religious conflicts between Catholics and Protestants. Faber had been called to the Council of Trent, the Church's corporate response to the challenge of the Reformation. Broken in health from thousands of miles of missionary journeys, Faber, in the end, was unable to go. Instead, from Madrid, he wrote a brief letter to a Jesuit already in Trent, giving helpful tips from his own experience, on how to deal with the Protestants. Faber died a few months after that in Rome, with his dear friend Ignatius close by.

When I read that letter this year, I was amazed. In an era of violence, denunciation, and persecution in the name of "the true religion," Faber counseled respect and hospitality: seek to love those with different beliefs, he said, remove anything that would lessen your esteem for them, and seek to win their love and confidence. In a time when the mode of discourse between Catholics and Protestants was no-quarter-asked-or-given debate, in which the sole goal was to prove the error and bad faith of the other, Faber suggested dialogue: avoid topics of controversy, seek instead to build understanding based on things, specially spiritual longings and holy desires, held in common. That letter captures for me the special gift of Blessed Peter Faber: his *cura personalis*, his *Caring Spirit*. He, the "quiet companion," had a gift for friendship, for listening and accompaniment, for building up broken community in a time of deep divisions and mutual distrust.

I find it striking that this Jesuit Jubilee Year, we not only recall that the Society of Jesus began in the friendship of these three gifted individuals, but that their friendship began in a university. They started out as roommates in the greatest university of Christendom of their time, the University of Paris, which counted among its eminent professors in previous centuries such luminaries as Albert the Great, Bonaventure, and Thomas Aquinas. Xavier and Faber, who were already sharing lodgings, did not realize that when they welcomed the older Ignatius, their lives would be changed. Ignatius helped his new friends discover their truest and best selves in their relationship with Christ. In this history of the first three companions, we see precisely what can happen in a university. Not only is the intellect trained, but, through friendships, hearts can be transformed, dreams reshaped, lives reoriented, and in the process, the world changed.

If this happened in the University of Paris four hundred years ago, then this happens too in the Ateneo de Manila—and not by accident, but by design and plan. I know that I speak for many others when I say that my education in the Ateneo de Manila changed my life. I did not just get professional training in my four years of college in the late 1970s. Somehow it all came together: the core curriculum, especially philosophy and theology; social awareness, analysis and service programs in student organizations (for me, ACIL and AtSCA); formation for leadership in the Sanggunian; and programs of prayer and spiritual formation, that brought me to know Christ, to enter into living friendship with him, to hear his call to make his love and his mission the foundations of my life. And I am convinced that all these programs only bore fruit for me because of outstanding and deeply caring mentors and wisdom figures in the Ateneo: our dean then, Fr. Ben Nebres; professors like Fr. Roque Ferriols, Fr. Joe Galdon, Dr. Ramon Reyes, Dr. Doreen Fernandez, Dr. Edna Manlapaz, to name but a few; moderators of our student organizations, like Fr. Francis Reilly, Mr. Ediboy Calasanz, Mr. Johnny Kanapi, Dr. Tina Montiel. I am equally convinced that my Ateneo experience transformed me because of the influence and support of peers, classmates, and friends, many of whom, twenty-six years after graduation, remain not only friends, but people with whom I share a vision of faith and hope and a passion for service and social change, and whose friendship and witness encourage and inspire me in the face of all that discourages, to hold on to the ideal of living as a person for others.

So much has changed since my time in the Ateneo. New challenges, both external and internal, have arisen. Our young people grow up in a globalized world with a dizzying pluralism of choices of lifestyles and values. The ideologies of the 1970s have collapsed, a deep disillusionment with political institutions and players has set in, and there is a search for convincing and effective frameworks of social change. Our students must be prepared for a more international sphere of action and decision making. The dramatic and necessary expansion of the Ateneo in terms of number of students and faculty has radically changed the context of formation, and calls for a deep rethinking of formation strategies and methods. Moreover, we see more clearly that to be a "man or woman for others" does not limit one to "alternative careers" like NGO work, education, or religious life, important as these are. Rather, it means becoming a "professional for others," one who orients his or her profession, whether it be business, or science, or art, towards nation building.

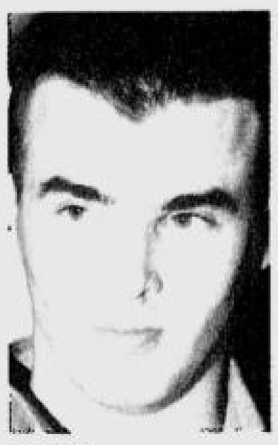
In the past few years, I have had the opportunity of participating in efforts at rethinking the social and spiritual formation programs of the Ateneo, in the face of a new world inside and outside the university. And while there remains much to be done, I am encouraged by two things. First, I find that there remains a strong commitment in the Ateneo community to find ways to ensure that Ateneo education is truly spiritually and socially transformative. Secondly, encountering students in different organizations and activities, from leadership seminars to Task Force Noah to *Gawad Kalinga*, I see happening to so many young people what Ateneo did for my batchmates and me. I see people changed deeply because of their Ateneo education.

Just as Ignatius did for Xavier and Faber, the Ateneo continues to call out the best and truest selves of our students. That the Ateneo can touch more effectively, not just the minds, but the hearts and spirits of its students, in this new world of the early twenty-first century, remains our challenge. That the vision, passion, and caring spirit of Ignatius, Xavier and Faber, be formed in Ateneans, for the greater glory of God and for the sake of building up our nation, remains our dream.

www.ateneo.edu

Smith said to be getting used to life as jailbird

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.



SMITH

HIS GOVERNMENT is moving heaven and earth to get him out of the Makati City Jail, but in the meantime, convicted rapist Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith has begun to play chess and looked more relaxed in his narrow detention room.

The young US Marine is not actually in a jail cell with other convicts but is being held in the records section office of the city jail, where joined tables topped by a mattress serve as his bed, and round-the-clock US security guards stay with him. All his meals are sent over by the US Embassy.

"He is smiling a lot now and he greets us once in a while. He appears to have adjusted," jail warden Supt. Delvic Oreiro told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Inmates at the jail cannot see Smith, however, Oreiro said only he and four other jail officers are allowed to enter Smith's temporary cell.

The Philippine and US governments had already agreed to return Smith to US Embassy custody in line with provisions of the Visiting Forces Agreement, but Makati Judge Benjamin Pozon decided to let the 21-year-old Marine sit out the weekend at the Makati jail until he got around to hearing the custody plea on Monday.

Smith was convicted last week of raping the woman the country had come to know as "Nicole" while his three Marine co-accused were acquitted and were immediately flown out of the country.

The jail warden said Smith spent his first weekend at the city jail "reading and playing scrabble and chess games" with his security escorts from the US Embassy.

The embassy guards stay with the young soldier inside the office and work alternately in four-hour shifts, making sure Smith is constantly without company.

Oreiro said Smith had not complained about anything so far.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, December 10, 2006
2nd Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9

Up, Jerusalem

Jerusalem, put off your garment of mourning and unhappiness, put on the splendor and glory of God forever.

Wrap yourself in the mantle of holiness that comes from God, put on your head the crown of glory of the Eternal One.

For God will show your splendor to every being under Heaven.

He will call your name forever, "Peace in Justice" and "Glory in the Fear of the Lord."

Rise up, Jerusalem, stand on the heights. Look towards the East and see your children gathered together from the setting of the sun to its rising, by the voice of the Holy One, rejoicing because God has remembered them.

They left you on foot, taken away by the enemy. God will lead them back, carried gloriously like royal princes.

For God has resolved to bring low every high mountain and the everlasting hills, to fill up the valleys and level out the ground, in order that Israel may walk in safety under the Glory of God.

Even the forests and the fragrant trees will give shade to Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy by the light of his Glory, escorting them with his mercy and justice.

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

In the day of Christ

When I pray for you, I pray with joy. I cannot forget all you shared with me in the service of the Gospel, from the first day until now. Since God began such a good work in you, I am certain that he will complete it in the day of Christ Jesus.

God knows that I love you dearly with the love of Christ Jesus, and in my prayers I ask that your love may lead you each day to a deeper knowledge and clearer discernment, that you may have good criteria for everything. So you may be pure of heart and come blameless to the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of holiness that comes through Christ Jesus, for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

The herald's voice

It was the fifteenth year of the rule of the Emperor Tiberius; Pontius Pilatus was governor of Judea; Herod ruled over Galilee, his brother Philip ruled over the country of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias over Abilene. Annas and Caiaphas were the High Priests at that time when the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah in the desert.

John proclaimed a baptism for repentant people to obtain forgiveness of sins and he went through the whole country bordering the Jordan River. It was just as is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Listen to this voice crying out in the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his path straight. The valleys will be filled and the mountains and hills made low. Everything crooked will be made straight and the rough paths smooth; and every mortal will see the salvation of God.

Commentary

We are summoned to rejoice and dress in the splendor of God's glory, wrapping ourselves in the cloak of justice and bearing the miter of God's eternal name. It is time to stand, gathered, rejoicing at the Word of the Holy One, for our God leads us home. We are embraced with the justice and mercy of God. Are we rich in the harvest of justice that we have shared in? John the Baptizer proclaims that the promise is coming among us now if only we can see—to be baptized, our eyes washed out with repentance.

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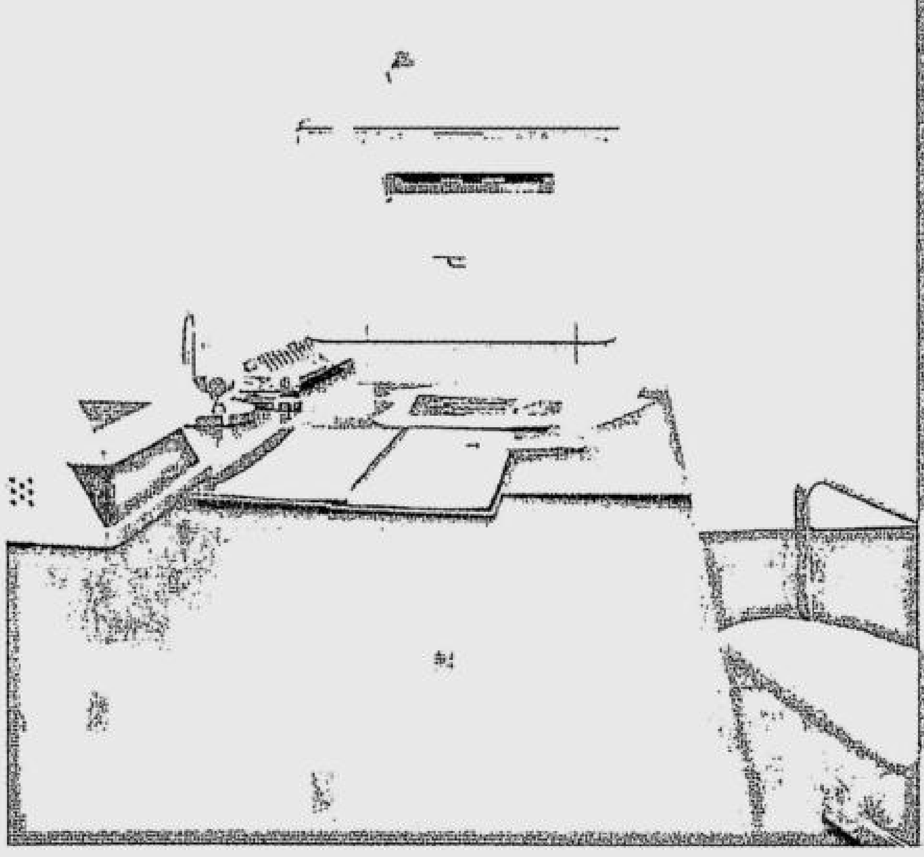

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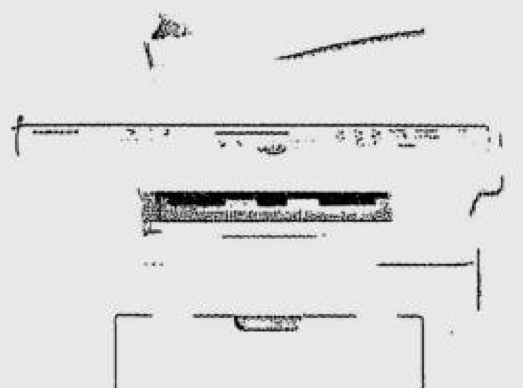

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'Seniang' strengthens, tears into Samar, Leyte

From page A1

per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 150 kph, the second typhoon to barrel into the archipelago in as many weeks toppled trees, electric poles and telephone lines.

Storm Signal No. 3 was hoisted at noon yesterday over Samar, Leyte and Biliran—the three islands comprising the Eastern Visayas region—and northern Cebu.

The Regional Disaster Coordinating Council in Tacloban said hundreds of families in the three islands had been moved to higher ground and given shelter in public school buildings.

In Albay, the Bicol province worst hit by Supertyphoon "Reming" last week, disaster officials evacuated around 70,000 residents in anticipation of heavy rainfall that could trigger flashfloods and mudslides from Mayon volcano.

The residents, from 42 villages in the cities of Legazpi, Tabaco and Ligao and the towns of Daraga, Guinobatan, Camalig and Sto. Domingo, were taken to holding areas starting at 6 a.m.

Jukes Nunez of the operations division of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) in Legazpi said officials had identified pick-up points and holding areas as early as Friday night.

Painful lesson

"There are enough shelters for the evacuees. We have identified the churches, village halls and chapels, private residences and buildings, and schools that would serve as temporary holding areas until the typhoon is over," he said.

The painful lesson learned from the mudslides unleashed by Reming was evident.

Residents were seen fleeing their homes and riding in open trucks under heavy rain.

The women covered their children with towels as protection from the rain, and most of the menfolk stayed put in their homes to guard their properties.

Others scrambled to find safe refuge on their own, defying government-planned evacuation procedures.

Legazpi Mayor Noel Rosal appealed for calm, saying that everything was under government control and that many holding areas had been opened to residents.

He said military and dump trucks had been dispatched to designated pick-up points.

Vice Mayor Jess Rico Salazar advised evacuees over the radio to bring only their most important belongings to avoid congestion in holding areas.

At 3 p.m., an hour before the cut-off time imposed by its owners, a mall was still swarming with panic buyers.

Blackouts, landslides

Several areas in Metro Cebu experienced blackouts before noon when electric transformers exploded because of the strong winds, the Visayas Electric Co. (Veco) reported.

Veco said it had dispatched linemen and engineers to restore power in Lawaan in Talisay City, Cabancalan in Mandaue City, and V. Rama. P. del Rosario, Lahug and Apas in Cebu City before 3 p.m.

But just as power was restored in these areas, Veco received reports of more power interruptions elsewhere.

With the weather bureau Pagasa hoisting Signal No. 3 over Aklan, Capiz, Iloilo, Antique, Guimaras, northern Negros, the rest of Cebu and Bohol, the Philippine Coast Guard grounded inter-island vessels, stranding thousands of travelers at the ports.

In Sorsogon, more than 1,263 passengers, 40 buses, 41 trucks, and 12 small cars were stranded at the ports of Matnog, Bulan, and Pilar, the Office of Civil Defense reported.

A report received by the PDCC said landslides covered the highway in San Julian, Eastern Samar, rendering the road impassable for commuters bound for the capital Borongan.

Around 30 vehicles were also immobilized starting at noon on the highway in Maydolong town about 24 km from Borongan, INQUIRER correspondent Fr. Cyrain Cabueñas said.

According to Cabueñas, who was covering the effects of the typhoon and also making a pastoral visit to Maydolong, toppled electric poles and gmelina trees littered the highway from Guiuan (where Seniang made landfall at around noon) to Borongan.

He said he and other trapped commuters had been trying to move the downed trees but that they had had to contend with strong winds and heavy rains.

Contingency plans

At Camp Aguinaldo in Manila, where she presided over a meeting of the National Disaster Coordinating Council at around 2 p.m., President Macapagal-Arroyo reminded officials of affected cities and municipalities to prepare their contingency plans.

She was briefed by Nathaniel Cruz, chief weather forecaster of Pagasa, on Seniang's track.

"Seniang is not as strong as Reming, but it is still a typhoon with [maximum sustained winds of] 120 kph," Cruz said.

Ms Arroyo had postponed the Asean leaders' summit set to open next week in Cebu because of Seniang. But Pagasa officials said they had not advised Malacañang to cancel the summit.

At 4 p.m. yesterday, Seniang was spotted over Tacloban with gustiness of up to 150 kph. It was moving west northwest at 22 kph.

Pagasa's severe weather bulletin issued at 4:15 p.m. still had Signal No. 3 (winds of more than 100 kph) hoisted over northern Cebu and Signal No. 2 (winds of 60 kph to 100 kph) over the rest of the province including Mactan.

Of today's expected weather, Pagasa said: "The whole of Visayas including Siargao island will have stormy weather with rough to very rough seas. Bicol region and Northern Mindanao will experience rains and gusty winds, and the coastal waters of these areas will be moderate to rough.

"Eastern and Southern Luzon will be cloudy, with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy, with isolated rain showers."

Seniang is expected to be 50 km southeast of Coron in Palawan this afternoon.

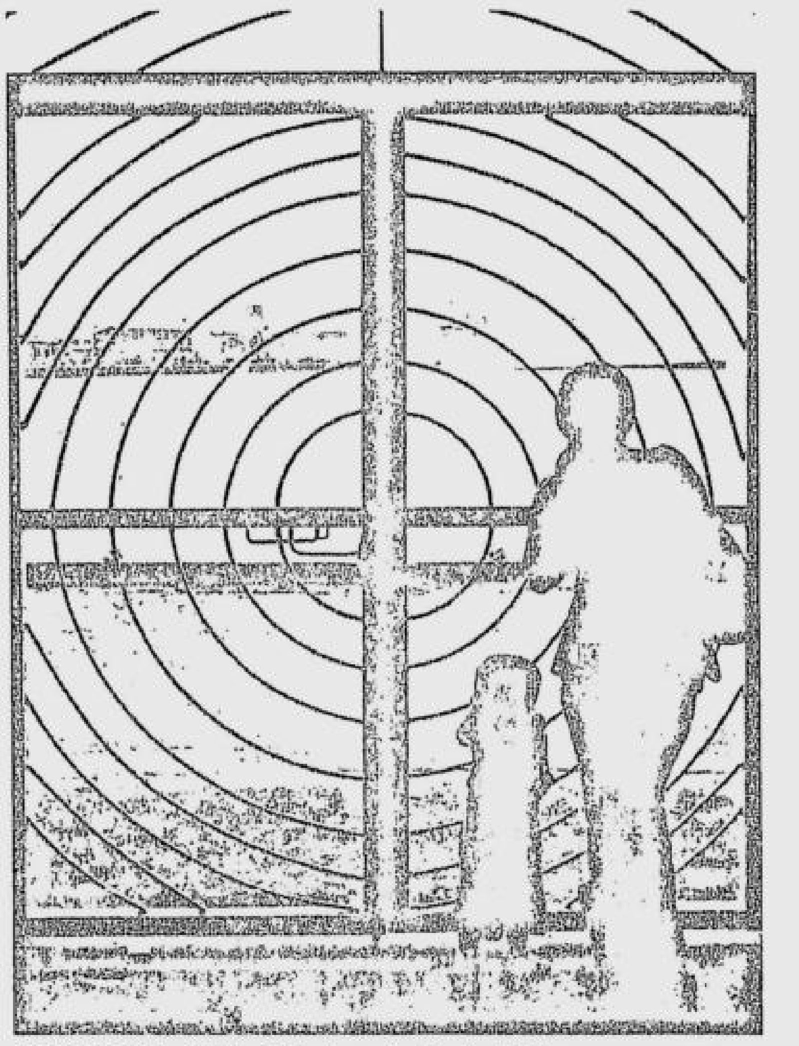
Affected areas

Other areas under Signal No. 3 are Masbate and Romblon near Luzon, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Samar, Leyte, Southern Leyte, Biliran, northern Negros, northern Iloilo, Capiz and Aklan in the Visayas and Dinagat Island near Mindanao.

Other areas under Signal No. 2 include Sorsogon, Albay, Burias Island and the Mindoro provinces, the rest of Iloilo, Antique, the rest of Negros, Guimaras, Bohol, Calamian Group, and Cuyo and Siargao Islands.

Those under Signal No. 1 are Catanduanes, Camarines Sur, Marinduque, Siquijor, northern Palawan, Surigao del Norte and Camiguin Island.

Residents of affected places were warned of possible landslides, flashfloods and storm surges. Reports from Vicente Labro, Cyrain Cabueñas, Joey Gabieta, Carla Gomez and Jhunnex Napallacan, INQUIRER Visayas; Ephraim Aguilar, Delma Peyra and Bobby Labalan, INQUIRER Southern Luzon; and Dona Pazzibugan and Norman Bordadora in Manila



STRANDED inside the Cebu terminal in pier 33 these passengers can only wait for clear skies after all marine vessels were put on hold in anticipation of Typhoon Seniang's arrival. REM ZAMORA

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Storm-lashed RP loses typhoon committee post

From page A1

tion. "The countries exchange information on how to deal with tropical cyclones.

And just like the tropical cyclones the members monitor, the committee has shifted its home base from the Philippines to China for the first time in three decades.

The WMO last week transferred its typhoon base from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration to neighboring Macau.

It was the first time since 1971, that the secretariat has been moved, according to Pagasa director Prisco Nilo, who will remain chair of the typhoon committee until November next year.

"The Philippines lobbied to establish the committee because we're always hit by typhoons. We wanted to exchange information with our neighbors on how to deal with typhoons," Nilo told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He said the members agreed during an earlier meeting in Vietnam that the secretariat should be rotated among the countries in the typhoon committee.

Macau offered to put in an additional $180,000 (P8.9 million) to boost operational requirements of the committee, he said.

Major concerns

"The Philippines did not have the money to match that amount... [But] it's good that somebody volunteered [to host it] now. Nobody wanted to take over before," Nilo said.

The typhoon committee drafts the regional programs of the WMO mainly on how to improve scientific capabilities of each government and how to reduce the negative impact of typhoons.

It also reviews relevant scientific and socioeconomic data, studies country reports and monitors if governments meet the program requirements of the WMO.

The official transfer of the secretariat was done on Wednesday, halfway through the week-long gathering of experts from 14 countries during the 39th session of the typhoon committee.

In the last decade, typhoons have become a major concern of the WMO and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Impact of typhoons

Typhoon-related disasters account for 84 percent of total fatalities and 98 percent of total economic damage from natural disasters from 1990 to 2006, according to Unescap.

"We are deeply concerned about the impact of typhoon-related disasters ... The efforts of this committee are essential to create better conditions for developing countries in the region to work toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals," Unescap representative Le Huu Ti said in his speech at the opening of the 39th session of the WMO typhoon committee on Monday.

He said efforts by the typhoon committee had greatly improved the warning system in many parts of the world but an assessment of the socioeconomic impact of disasters was needed.

$39B needed

Ti cited a study concluded early this year that showed the Asia Pacific region was the hardest hit by natural disasters and that it needed an investment of $39 billion (P1.9 trillion) to cope with the aftermath.

He said the region needed $19 billion (P942 billion) for the economy to recover and $20 billion (P992 billion), representing one percent of the region's total gross domestic product, for disaster prevention and mitigation.

From 1900 to 2005, the region accounted for 91 percent of deaths and 49 percent of economic damage due to natural disasters in the world, highlighting the great socioeconomic impact of disasters on the Asia Pacific.

"Regional efforts are necessary to mitigate the impact of natural disasters, which have profoundly affected many countries in Asia and the Pacific," Ti stressed.

Disaster preparedness

He noted that of the Asia Pacific countries, only Japan was allocating the ideal amount for a disaster prevention program.

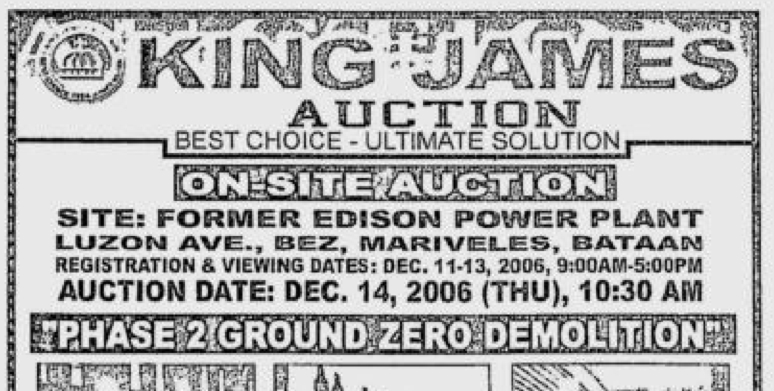
"The best example we found was Japan, but most of the countries in the region do not invest that well. That's why disaster preparedness and prevention must continue," Ti said.

Malaysia was investing only .07 percent of its GDP for disaster management, he said. The Philippine government allocated P268 million for its weather bureau last year and P492 million this year.

The typhoon committee reiterated its call for development partners to help fund its action programs for meteorology, hydrology, disaster prevention and preparedness, and training and research.

"There is a need for development partners to provide assistance to effectively implement items in the program which cannot be funded nationally," WMO regional director for Asia and the Pacific Tokiyoshi Toya said.

Among the members of the typhoon committee are the United States, Japan, Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand, Korea, Malaysia, China, Laos and Cambodia.



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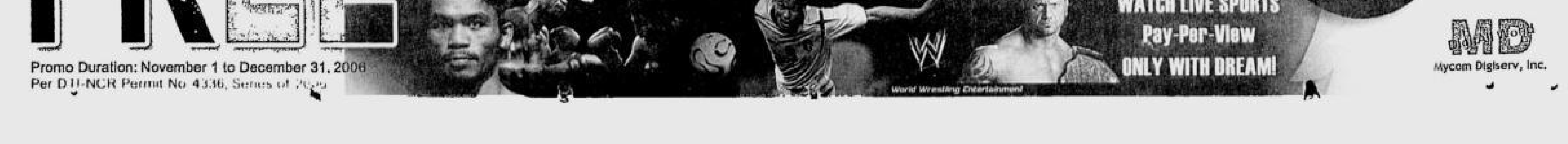

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12th ASEAN SUMMIT

CEBU, PHILIPPINES
10 - 14 December 2006

Key Concerns that President Arroyo will Champion in the 12th ASEAN Summit

The key concerns that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will champion during the 12th ASEAN Summit and other top-level meetings are near and dear to her vision for the Filipino people. The first priority is a focus on social justice, including care for our God-given natural environment and the protection and welfare of our children. That is why the President has chosen the theme of "One Caring and Sharing Community" for the Summit. The second is the value of closer regional economic cooperation and integration to expand the country's markets, increase investments and create jobs here at home. This includes a need to care for our overseas workers, create energy independence and self-reliance, and to wipe out the corrosive affects of corruption. Finally, the President is focused on bringing together all nations to fight terrorism, provide for protection of our homeland and bring peace to Mindanao and other trouble spots in the region. ●

Benefits to RP of GMA leadership in ASEAN

The leadership of President Arroyo in ASEAN and other international forums has directly benefited the people of the Philippines. Through her hard work in the international community, the President has generated investments and jobs, strengthened our security in the fight against terrorism, and improved social justice.
The President is bringing those benefits home. The upcoming Leaders' Summits are a direct reflection of the benefits of the President's engagement and the honor and prestige she is bringing to the people of the Philippines through the presence of world leaders in Cebu City. The President is constantly working for a new, more modern Philippines and to eliminate poverty and improve the quality of life of every Filipino. And key to our future success as a nation is our ability to prepare our people to compete and win at home and abroad. To prepare our nation, the President believes that our youths must have every opportunity available to them to succeed. Engagement with other countries introduces all our people, particularly our youths, to the opportunities that the world holds in store for them. The President wants to make sure that our young people must be exposed to the workings of the Summits and the importance of producing new leaders who will guide our great nation in the future. ●

One Caring and Sharing Community

President Arroyo formally opening the 39th ASEAN anniversary celebration in Malacañang on August 8, 2006 (Top).

With Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo

Philippines 2006---A strong nation fighting poverty through Filipino excellence and global engagement.

ASEAN 2006---neighbors working for a better world, embracing hope, sharing dreams.

> *Caring for our God-given natural environment and the protection and welfare of migrant workers.*
>
> *Sharing energy independence and the collective will to banish corruption, crime and terror.*
>
> *Caring and Sharing for Peace through interfaith dialogue and cultural understanding.*

ASEAN---One caring and sharing community

The Philippines in ASEAN

Since its founding 39 years ago, ASEAN has promoted peace and stability in the region and enhanced sustainable growth among its member countries. Over the years, the Philippines and the Filipino people have benefited from these ASEAN objectives. Because of improved regional stability, there has been increased investment and tourism flows between the Philippines and its neighbors in the region, and even beyond. On promoting stability, ASEAN supports the Philippines on vital national security questions, notably in the territorial dispute in the South China Sea. ASEAN has been mainly responsible for the emergence of a modus vivendi in the important sea lane among the claimant countries. Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam have also extended crucial assistance for the peace process in Mindanao. They have facilitated peace talks and ceasefires and have provided diplomatic backing for the Philippines in the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). ASEAN has matured from a mere economic grouping to a key regional organization that has touched the lives of the people in the region, assuring them safety and improving their quality of life. The Philippines has played a key role in ongoing projects of ASEAN that include cooperative projects in the areas of HIV/AIDS, community-based care for the elderly, occupational safety and health; sustainable employment, youth cultural forum, media exchanges, ASEAN university network, social welfare, family and population, and bird flu and SARS management. The Philippines also actively participated,and even initiated, cooperative efforts in the fight against terrorism, energy sharing, tourism promotion, human resource development, poverty eradication and protection of migrant workers.●

Leaders Attending 12th ASEAN Summit

From 10 ASEAN Members

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah
Brunei Darussalam

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan
Land area : 5,765 sq.km
Population : 370,100 (2005)
Language : Malay, English
Religion : Islam
Currency : B$ (Bruneian Dollar).
GDP : US$ 6.3 billion (2005)

Prime Minister Hun Sen
Cambodia

Head of State : His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni
Capital : Phnom Penh
Land area : 181,035 sq.km
Population : 13.7 million (2005)
Language : Khmer
Religion : Buddhism
Currency : Riel
GDP : US$ 5.5 billion (2005)

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
Indonesia

Capital : Jakarta
Land area : 1,890,000 sq.km.
Population : 220.0 million (2005)
Language : Bahasa Indonesia
Religion : Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism
Currency : Rupiah
GDP : US$ 280.3 billion (2005)

Prime Minister Bouasone Bouphavanh
Laos

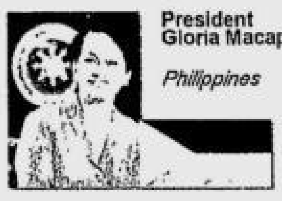
Head of State : President Choummaly Sayasone
Capital : Vientiane
Land area : 236,800 sq.km
Population : 6.0 million (2005)
Language : Lao
Religion : Buddhism
Currency : Kip
GDP : US$ 3.7 billion (2005)

Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi
Malaysia

Head of State : DYMM Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Dipertuan Agung Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Ibni Almarhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail
Capital : Kuala Lumpur
Land area : 330,257 sq.km
Population : 26.1 million (2005)
Language : Melayu, English, Chinese, Tamil
Religion : Islam, Buddhism, Taoism, Hinduism, Christianity
Currency : Malaysian Ringgit
GDP : US$ 130.7 billion (2005)

Prime Minister Lt. Gen. Soe Win
Myanmar

Head of State : Senior General Than Shwe
Capital : Yangon
Land area : 676,577 sq.km
Population : 56.0 million (2005)
Language : Myanmar
Religion : Buddhism, Christianity, Islam
Currency : Myanmar Kyat
GDP : US$ 5.9 billion (2005) at current market prices



President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Philippines

Capital : Manila
Land area : 300,000 sq. km.
Population : 84.2 million (2005)
Language : Filipino, English
Religion : Christianity (Catholicism, Protestantism, Philippine Independent Church , Iglesia ni Kristo); Islam
Currency : Peso
GDP : US$97.7 billion (2005)

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong
Singapore

Head of State : President S R Nathan
Capital : Singapore
Land area : 697.1 sq.km
Population : 4.4 million (2005)
Language : English, Malay, Mandarin, Tamil
Religion : Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Taoism and Hinduism
Currency : Singapore Dollar (S$)
GDP : US$116.7 billion (2005)

Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont
Thailand

Head of State : His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej
Capital : Bangkok
Land area : 513,254 sq.km
Population : 64.8 million (2005)
Language : Thai
Religion : Buddhism, Islam
Currency : Baht
GDP : US$ 176.6 billion (2005)

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung
Vietnam

Head of State : President Nguyen Minh Triet
Capital : Ha Noi
Land area : 330,363 sq.km
Population : 83.1 million (2005)
Language : Vietnamese
Religion : Buddhism, Christianity
Currency : Dong
GDP : US$ 52.8 billion (2005)

From 6 Dialogue Partners

Prime Minister John Howard
Australia

Premier Wen Jiabao
China

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh
India

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe
Japan

President Roh-Moo-Hyun
Republic of Korea

Prime Minister Helen Clark
New Zealand

Cebu City

The City of Cebu is the provincial capital of Cebu in the Philippines and is the second most imortant metropolitan center in the country. The City lies on the eastern shore of the island of Cebu and is the oldest City in the country. It is the country's main domestic shipping hub and is home to more than 80% of the country's interisland shipping companies. Cebu is also the main hub, outside of the capital, of international flights into the country and is the most important center of commerce, trade, and industry in the Visayas and Mindanao, the southern parts of the country. It is because of this and other important aspects that Cebu City is dubbed the Queen City of the South. According to the official 2000 census, it has a population of 718, 821 people in 147, 600 households.

Cebu City is the center of a metropolitan area called Metro Cebu, which includes the cities of Mandaue, Lapu-Lapu, and Talisay. Metro Cebu has a total population of more than 2 million people. The Mactan-Cebu International Airport, located in Lapu-Lapu City. To the northeast of the city are Mandaue, the town of Consolacion, to the west are Toledo City and the town of Minglanilla. Across Mactan Strait to the east is Mactan Island where Lapu-Lapu City is located.

The venues for the Leaders' Meeting and Retreat of the 12th ASEAN Summit and other related Summits are the Mactan Hall of the Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort and Spa (bottom left) and the Cebu International Convention Center in Mandaue City (bottom right).

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HOT AND COLD: Agustin returns to his seat after the water-throwing episode that created an uproar. RAFFY LERMA

UNEXPECTED OUTBURST: Constantino berates De Venecia and his congressional sidekicks for their "totally bereft of principles, that's why you are without shame." Constantino is quickly led out of the room by hotel security. RAFFY LERMA

Hotheads lose their cool, steal thunder from JDV presscon

By Michael Lim Ubac

NO ONE IS APPARENTLY IMmune to the passionate debates that have been triggered by the House's Charter change drive.

Emotions ran so high at a press conference yesterday called by Speaker Jose de Venecia on the issue that a near fistfight broke out among some of those attending the meeting at the Dusit Hotel in Makati.

In the middle of the conference, left-leaning activist Renato Constantino Jr. angrily denounced the House leaders for their support for Charter change.

Raising his voice, Constantino told De Venecia and other House leaders: "I am completely appalled by your collective gall. You are totally bereft of principles, that's why you are without shame."

He said the House leaders were a "disgrace" to the nation.

His comments provoked angry reactions.

"You have a right to ask a question but not berate anybody," Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte shot back.

"I have a right to be here," Constantino said.

Irked by the disruption, some reporters and newspaper columnists jumped into the fray, triggering a shouting match.

Security officers surrounded Constantino and tried to lead him out of the room, but he snarled: "They are a bunch of serial rapists."

He was apparently referring to allegations that the House majority, by rushing their plan to amend the Charter, was raping the Constitution.

As Constantino was being whisked away, INQUIRER business columnist Victor Agustin splashed a glass of water in the activist leader's face.

At one point, Agustin again approached apparently to douse Constantino with another glass of water, witnesses said. But the glass broke after it accidentally hit the tape recorder of dzXL reporter Dennis Geron.

Agustin's side

Agustin told this reporter later that he had to resort to some unconventional measures to stop Constantino from his rantings.

"Of course (I was mad). He was boorishly hotheaded and he didn't want to stop," said Agustin. "So he needed a douse of cold water."

He recalled Constantino challenging him to a fistfight.

In a brief statement, INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot said: "It is unfortunate that Vic's emotions got the better of him. We certainly don't condone this type of behavior."

Constantino's side

Constantino believes he did nothing improper.

"As a private citizen I believe I had the right to say what I feel," Constantino told the INQUIRER.

Constantino said he went to the House leaders' news conference without pretending he was a member of the media. He said he wanted to listen to what De Venecia had to say and to tell the pro-Charter change congressmen what he thought of their efforts in a venue other than in a demonstration.

"I had no intention to figure in a fight," he said.

Of Agustin, Constantino said: "I don't know him. I was told that he was a columnist."

He said he may file charges of slander by deed against Agustin although he described the incident between them as "inconsequential." *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

Senators dismiss Speaker's ultimatum

From page A1

The House majority has passed a resolution calling for Charter amendments through an assembly composed of the present members of Congress.

Some senators favor doing it through a constitutional convention, whose members would be composed of elected delegates.

'Cha-cha is dead'

"This development shows that Cha-cha is dead. It's finished, entombed permanently," Sen. Joker Arroyo said in a telephone interview.

"This is a big revelation. We've won. The Constitution stays and we should celebrate already. Any talk about Con-con or the people's initiative is irrelevant," he added.

Arroyo said that the House leadership's turnaround showed that it never had the 195 votes, or the support of two-thirds of all members of Congress, needed to change the Charter.

He added that the House majority bloc should present the 195 "warm bodies" before senators could dialogue with them.

A bluff

"The shift in the House position is an admission of what I have been saying—that they do not have the numbers, they don't have the 195. The House leadership, in short, was just bluffing all along," Arroyo said.

"Rather than admit failure, because that is what it is, they're now making a retreat."

Villar said reports that Ms Arroyo was dropping her support for the constituent assembly option was "bad news" for De Venecia.

"Once the President distances herself, (Cha-cha) is no more. The President is a politician and she understands that when the public gets angry, she's the one who's going to be hit and not the Speaker and his group," Villar said.

"You can't remove the congressmen through rallies but the President can be unseated," he added.

Listen to the people

Villar said that the public did not merely disagree with Cha-cha but were outraged at how the administration tried to go about it.

VILLAR: It's face-saving exit.

ARROYO: They don't admit failure.

"I think the message is very clear: Heed the clamor of the people. This is something that public officials cannot ignore. There is actual public outrage and I think the President saw this," he said.

"I think the reason this Con-ass had a lot of difficulty is that they ignored the sentiment of the people and so when the people had shown their anger, they panicked," he added.

Missing the point

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines had no official reaction as of yesterday but CBCP spokesperson Msgr. Pedro Quitorio said De Venecia and his allies were missing the point in their new call for a constitutional convention.

"These people do not get the point. The point is the people do not trust them. The people can't entrust Cha-cha to those that they do not trust," Quitorio said, stressing that his words were his personal reaction and not CBCP's.

Quitorio said that he was mystified by the motivation behind the rush to amend the Charter.

"We have lots of problems today, such as the devastation of Bicol by the recent supertyhoon. Why don't we address these first?" he asked.

Apology first

"Charter change is not the problem of the common folk; those pushing for it seem to be obsessive-compulsive in doing so. There's something wrong here, why are they so insistent?" he said.

Asked if the CBCP would go ahead with its plan to stage a rally against Cha-cha on Friday, Quitorio said the faithful should wait for the announcement of CBCP president and Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo.

"He has not said anything about these yet, but I've been feeding him updates on the matter," he said.

He added a meeting of top CBCP officials may be held on Monday to gather inputs from the CBCP permanent council members.

Teodoro Pascua, a spokesperson for evangelist Bro. Ed Villanueva and Bangon Pilipinas party, said the House leadership should first apologize for railroading the process of convening a constituent assembly without the concurrence of the Senate.

"We don't believe that is what they intend to do ... They just want the protests to die down," Pascua said after De Venecia announced yesterday that the House was now willing to change the Charter via a constitutional convention.

Answer is 'No'

"No," Pascua said when asked if Bangon would heed the call of De Venecia for civil society to persuade senators to pass a counterpart resolution calling for a constitutional convention.

Pascua said there was reason to take De Venecia and the majority congressmen's announcement with caution.

"Will you believe him outrightly? Whatever he says will have to be looked (into) first," Pascua said.

Pascua said that unless the House leadership took back its recently approved resolutions, it could always pursue the constitutional assembly route to rewrite the Charter. *With reports from Norman Bordadora and Jerome Aning*

JDV offers Con-con; sets 72-hour deadline

From page A1

to convene a Con-ass starting as early as Tuesday even without the participation of the Senate—which opposes it—has provoked widespread protests.

Outraged by the House move, leaders of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, the El Shaddi group of Bro. Mike Velarde and the Bangon Party of evangelist Bro. Ed Villanueva have mobilized their supporters for a planned huge rally at Rizal Park on Dec. 15.

The Supreme Court in October struck down a separate plan by provincial governors and mayors loyal to Ms Arroyo to dismantle the Constitution through a signature campaign, or people's initiative.

Senators and CBCP officials have expressed preference for Con-con as a method of changing the Constitution rather than through Con-ass, whose members would be composed of the current members of the Lower House and the Senate.

Not a defeat

At yesterday's nationally televised press conference, De Venecia also said the House majority was dropping proposals to cancel the May 2007 congressional and local elections and reset them for November next year, when members to the projected new parliament would be chosen.

The press conference was attended by other members of the House leadership, including those who vigorously pushed for Con-ass even if they had to hold sessions until dawn.

De Venecia urged the Senate to pass a resolution within 72 hours calling for a Con-con whose members would be elected in May 2007 simultaneously with the midterm polls.

"On behalf of ... the Filipino people who clamor for constitutional reforms to provide the lasting structures for political stability and economic growth, we challenge the Senate to muster immediately the constitutional requirement of two-thirds vote of its members to call for the election of delegates to the constitutional convention," De Venecia said.

RAFFY LERMA

SCENE-STEALING SIDESHOW disrupts the main points on Con-ass and the Con-con being put forward by De Venecia and his House allies at the press conference on Saturday to douse the flaring tempers of the day.

Con-ass option

If the Senate failed to do so, the House would proceed with its Con-ass plan, De Venecia said, adding this was in line with the Constitution.

Opposition lawmakers have ridiculed such a Senate-less assembly as no more than a rump gathering of obedient congressmen with no authority to change the Constitution.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said the decision by the De Venecia group to put off their Con-ass scheme was "not by choice but by force of circumstances given the broad coalition lined up against their efforts to amend the Constitution."

Referring to the public protests against Con-ass, Escudero said the majority's "superiority in numbers inside the House was no match to the numbers outside the House."

De Venecia said the decision was reached during a meeting with congressional leaders Friday afternoon which decided to "consider alternatives or variations to the existing constituent assembly scenario that the Senate has resolved to boycott—irresponsibly in our view."

Nonpartisan effort

The Speaker appealed to the civil society and the Church "to pressure the Senate to put its votes where its mouth is—to produce the two-thirds vote for a constitutional convention that will enable Charter change to begin in earnest."

He said the House was willing to postpone Con-ass slated for Tuesday while awaiting the Senate's response.

He said if the Senate accepts the challenge, "then let this become a non-partisan effort to effect urgent political reforms through Charter change."

If the Senators "ignore this challenge, then we say they are morally bound to join us in the constituent assembly."

De Venecia suggested that delegates to the Con-con—two per congressional district—should be elected during next May's polls to save about P3 billion in expenses.

No GMA role

"Why can't we all run for prime minister? Why don't you ask them that?" the Speaker said, visibly irked when asked about his role under the envisioned parliamentary system.

De Venecia is widely thought to be aspiring for the post of prime minister in a parliamentary government.

He denied that the shift to a Con-con was reached after Ms Arroyo had talked with him.

"No, no. The President did not talk to anyone of us," he said. "This is solely the initiative of Congress."

De Venecia said the move toward Con-con would prove that the administration was "sincere" in pushing for modernization of the political system.

In his talk with the INQUIRER, De Venecia denied that some key members of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) had urged Ms Arroyo to drop her support for Con-ass.

One of those present at that meeting told the INQUIRER that the local executives had feared pushing the Con-ass could ignite another people power outburst.

"*Wala yon*" (That's not true), De Venecia said.

God save the Queen

He said the House majority decided to offer the Con-con option to the Senate to accommodate the demands of the senators, those of the Church and other groups, including the Makati Business Club.

"They should now prove their sincerity," De Venecia added.

House Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said the shift in the mode of amending the Charter was another "God-save-the Queen ploy" to keep Ms Arroyo in power.

Escudero said the people should not relax its vigilance.

"Stop Con-ass, don't just postpone it. No precondition and no timelines. I don't think they are in a position to impose any conditions," said Escudero, stressing that the majority was just looking for a graceful exit.

House Assistant Majority Leader Abraham Kahlil Mitra admitted that the House Con-con gambit was "a classic 'one-step backward, two-step forward strategy.'"

"It's a small step backward so a great leap forward (can be achieved)," said Mitra who filed last year a resolution favoring Con-con as the mode of amending the Charter, preparatory to setting up a one-chamber legislature under a parliamentary system.

Ulap changes tune

By Chito A. Fuentes
Inquirer Visayas

TAGBILARAN CITY—A GROUP that engineered the move to change the Constitution through a people's initiative—and that was known for its loyalty to President Macapagal-Arroyo—seemed to be singing a different tune yesterday.

Now, they are supporting the holding of a constitutional convention (Con-con) as a method for changing the Charter.

Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, who is president of both the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), described the move of Speaker Jose de Venecia to call for a constitutional convention as a "happy compromise" after the tension caused by an earlier House decision to rewrite the Charter through a constituent assembly—that is, with only the members of Congress themselves performing the job.

Aumentado said the compromise was actually the stand taken by both the LPP and the Ulap. The two organizations are dominated by local pro-administration government executives.

Aumentado called on Church and militant groups to cancel their planned protest demonstration on Dec. 15 against Cha-cha.

"The future of our nation and the next generation is at stake here," Aumentado said in a phone interview. "Let us refrain from anarchy. Otherwise, the momentum of progress and development we are experiencing now will grind to a standstill."

He said that in the spirit of Christmas, "it is time to reconcile and harmonize conflicting positions."

Aumentado said the House call for a Con-con was intended to prevent the tension generated by the Con-ass from getting out of hand.

"So Ulap and LPP are asking (the Senate and the House) to pass concurring resolutions that would be a happy compromise in finding change," he added.

JAPAN'S Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (second from right) and President Arroyo ride a third generation (3G) train bought with a Japanese loan after its inauguration. RYAN LIM

RP trains roll with Japan aid

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo and visiting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe cut a ribbon and poured champagne on one of the new commuter trains acquired through a soft loan from Tokyo at inauguration ceremonies held yesterday at the Light Rail Transit depot in Pasay City.

On the first day of his official visit, Abe chatted with President Arroyo during the test ride to a Manila train station six kilometers away.

The P8.9-billion loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation is payable in 30 years at 1 percent interest, with payments starting only after a 10-year grace period, the Light Rail Transit Authority said.

The loan was used to acquire 12 four-car trains, of which 10 had been delivered. Other funds would also be used to repair stations and install air conditioning in older Belgian-made coaches.

The new trains will increase the 15-kilometer line's capacity from 27,000 passengers to 40,000 per hour, the transit authority said.

In a statement, Arroyo said her administration was "greatly indebted" to the Japanese government for the "substantial contribution" to the rail project.

"Commuters will undoubtedly enjoy not only reduced travel time, but increased comfort and less pollution as well," she said.

Abe expressed the hope the new trains "will provide the Filipino people more convenience in their every day life by decongesting Metro Manila." *AP*

4.6-quake hits Marinduque; no damage

A LIGHT EARTHQUAKE ON SATURDAY shook Marinduque island province southeast of Manila which was hit by a series of tremors about two months earlier, the Philippine earthquake monitoring agency said.

The magnitude 4.6 earthquake struck at 4:26 p.m. and was centered about 34 kilometers west of Boac, capital of the province, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said. The tremor was also felt in the nearby province of Batangas. *AP*

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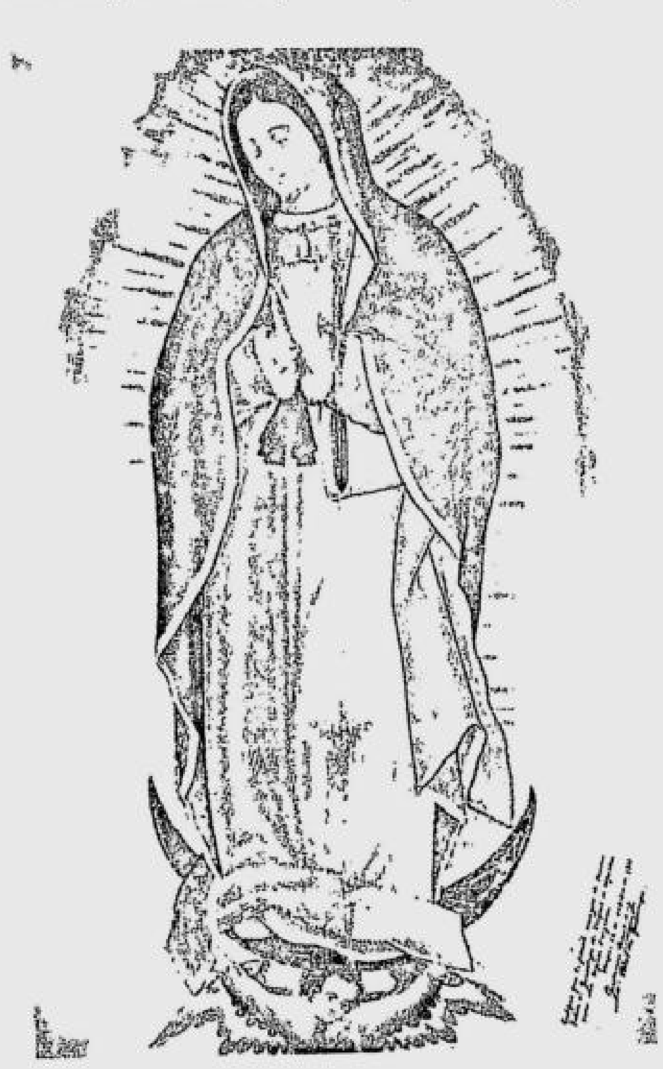
The sequence of mysteries leading toward Christmas is when God willed to send His Son on earth; He passed through a mother, excellently prepared for the purpose, thus the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Mary personified the Catholic Church, not yet existing, in welcoming Christ; thus follows the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe who personifies the Church in the Apocalypse. We, in turn, must return to God by being a member of the Holy Family, the symbol of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. And become members by becoming a child of the Church, thus the feast of Sto. Nino.

Juan Diego was on his way to Mass on the feast of the Immaculate Conception when Mary appeared to him at Tepeyac. Here in the Philippines, the Immaculate Conception was proclaimed patroness of Manila in 1578 and of Nueva Caceres and Nueva Segovia in 1595.

Then it came to pass that the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was brought to the Philippines by the Legaspi expedition with Fray Urdaneta from Acapulco. And the Filipinos warmly received both her and the Church. The Augustinians, who placed themselves under the same patronage spread the devotion to her until she was irrevocably proclaimed by Pope Pius XI as official Patroness of the Philippines in a Papal Bull in 1935, further reconfirmed by the late Cardinal Sin in Circular No. 2001-69 to the clergy of the Archdiocese of Manila (dated Nov. 22, 2001) stating that the entry in the Ordo as to who the Principal Patroness of the Philippines was a mistake. To this day the mistake has not been corrected.



In celebration of the Obligatory Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Philippines, a Solemn High Mass shall be celebrated at the Private Oratory of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bo. San Isidro, Magalang, Pampanga, Dec.12, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.

d

IT'S ALL OVER. Senior delegates to the Asean Summit flock to the international airport in Cebu to catch their flights home before the storm hits and after the postponement of the main event was announced on Friday. AP

Cebuanos' debut party ...

From page A1

of Cebu with the elfin looks of a movie star, said putting off the summit to a mutually agreed date next month would give her more time to perfect the arrangements for the event.

Powerhouse showcase

Garcia and other leaders of the province had pulled out all the stops to make the P1 billion event a showcase of Cebu's potential as the Philippines' foremost provincial powerhouse.

In eight months, they had, using their own funds, constructed a P500-million convention center on reclaimed land in Mandaue City.

The luxurious Shangri-La by the sea had been refurbished to accommodate the 10 Asean heads of state and government and their dialogue counterparts from Japan, China, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand.

Several thousand workers were mobilized to put on a new coat of asphalt, spruce and light up roads that had been badly rutted for years, throughout the length of the "ceremonial route" from the spanking Cebu International Airport to the official quarters, resorts and meeting venues.

Unsightly slums were dismantled and hundreds of households banished, each family given P25,000 or offered places in resettlement sites in the boondocks. The roofs of squatter shanties were painted red so they would look like Swiss chalets from the air for the arriving guests.

"This is our coming-out party," Victorino Lecaros, the country's ambassador to Malaysia and a native son of Cebu, had said before a typhoon, designated locally as "Seniang," rudely intervened.

"I don't think Cebu has seen anything like this before," he said. "It will be sometime before we'll see anything like this again."

Cebu is one of the Philippines' fastest developing provinces, known for its white sand beaches and diving spots, artisans, skilled technicians and professionals. The provincial capital is an educational center, popular for its medical schools, and host to one of the country's oldest industrial zones.

The province was put on the spot when Burma, under intense international pressure to improve its human rights record, gave up its rotating chairmanship of Asean, a chore which naturally fell on the Philippines.

Garcia, a law school dropout who built up a string of corporate businesses before joining the family's political franchise and taking over the governorship from her father, accepted the challenge of putting up a world-class convention center.

"In what reclamation area of which dreamland did I propose to conjure this imaginary castle with the wave of my magic wand?" was the question uppermost in her mind.

She also had to contend with politicians in this traditionally opposition bailiwick of this fractious nation.

For every brick, a brickbat

"For every stone we placed, a stone was thrown our way. For every brick we laid, a brickbat," she recalls.

The Cebu International Convention Center is not yet 100 percent done on what would have been the eve of the summit, but some areas are already operational although the roof leaked during yesterday's downpour.

"It's a miracle," Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo gushed during Friday's inauguration of the concrete and steel edifice, which he described as having been wrought "in spite the Cassandras of doom and gloom."

In his homily, Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal said Cebuanos cannot solve problems if all they did was gripe.

"We need to let go of the usual crab mentality, of envy and malice, of nitpicking and fault-finding," he said. But more should also be done to address the problems of the impoverished, he said.

The prophets of doom included a small group of vociferous demonstrators that had been attempting to stage protests outside the CICC.

Protesters, main threat

They carried placards declaring in red paint, "Stop killings!" referring to alleged extrajudicial executions. Leftists claim that some 700 political activists have been summarily executed since President Macapagal-Arroyo became President. (The INQUIRER has placed the figure at 260.)

Security officials said the main threat to the summit, with its theme of "One Caring and Sharing Community," was the protesters who threatened to recreate the 16th-century Battle of Mactan if police attempted to stop them.

A force of 10,000 crack troops, including Presidential Security Guard snipers and sniffer dogs, was assembled to provide security for the delegates.

Despite the hiccup, officials remained upbeat.

"Cebu now may be the focus of a lot of conscious attention. They will now take a second look at the potential of Cebu, aside from seeing what we already have," said Garcia.

Signs of progress

"There's so much more potential here that can be tapped," she said, pointing to Cebu's robust manufacturing and information communications technology sectors.

"We bring in 11 percent of the total export earnings of the entire country. Last year we hit $4.7 billion," she said.

Until fairly recently, Cebu was just another economic backwater. When Corazon Aquino brought her civil disobedience campaign against the dictator Ferdinand Marcos to Cebu in 1986, the rally site at Fuente Osmeña Park had little of the commercial bustle it has now. Apart from the Robinson's shopping mall, there were only one-story shops in the area.

Signs of progress are now everywhere, in new gleaming hotels, malls and business establishments, and wide boulevards. Local officials have also instituted zoning, preventing passenger jeeps and tricycles from entering the city proper, something Metro Manila's mayors have failed to do.

Trading, manufacturing

"Cebu has the least fertile soil in the Visayas," said Lecaros. "So if you can't plant you have to do something else. Cebuanos went into trading and manufacturing and it's been that way since Magellan arrived."

The attitude to people like Magellan has changed since then. Cebuanos are opening their arms to foreigners—until Typhoon Seniang intervened.

GMA: Stop Con-ass now

From page A1

Lakas-CMD coalition, Speaker Jose de Venecia, by calling it "a hare-brained idea."

Defensor, one of the few non-Lakas members of Ms Arroyo's official family, had been the lone voice expressing concern over the public backlash the Con-ass strategy of the Lakas clique might cause.

The House strategy was to force the issue by convening a Con-ass even without the participation of the Senate, and turning Congress into an interim parliament that would mean postponing the midterm elections in May and extending the terms of the elected officials by six months, or up to November.

Defensor had reckoned that the President, fresh from the defeat of the people's initiative in the Supreme Court, could not afford to lose face again by pushing for a Con-ass that, he said, was eliciting public outrage.

Humble pie

Forced to eat humble pie, members of the Lakas clique yesterday tried to downplay Ms Arroyo's abandonment of Con-ass just days after she had presided over its strategic planning meet in Malacañang.

He downplayed the President's retreat as part of "political maneuvering."

"That's why it's called Cha-cha—you can move forward, you can move backward," he said.

Ermita said the President's decision showed her "sensitivity" to the feelings of Church leaders, especially the local government officials who had met with her on Thursday and warned her that Con-ass could spark broad public outrage.

Different beat

With the President's withdrawal of support, Con-ass' main drumbeater in the Cabinet was marching to a different beat yesterday.

"We laud and support the position of the House to push on with the elections on May 14 next year. We also join them as well as other sectors in urging the whole of Congress—the Senate and the House combined—to immediately call for a constitutional convention (Con-con)," Claudio said in a text message.

Claudio maintained "the administration has been consistent in its advocacy of Charter reform as the key to sustained economic growth and political stability."

He pointed out that the Palace had never advocated "a cancellation or deferment of the elections or the extension of the tenure of the incumbent officials."

He said these had "never been on the agenda and purpose of Charter change."

Asked if Ms Arroyo would be throwing her support behind Con-con as a means of amending the Charter, Ermita said: "We can't say our position yet because the President has not yet given us instructions. And this has never been discussed with her."

The Lakas faction in the Cabinet was apparently caught off-guard by the President's change of heart.

Late Friday afternoon, Bunye said Ms Arroyo was still all-out in her support of Con-ass despite opposition from the Church and her allies.

He said Ms Arroyo believed that she could still convince those opposed to Cha-cha to change their minds.

House-Senate issue

But according to Catanduanes Gov. Leandro Verceles, the President had not abandoned Con-ass.

Verceles said that what Ms Arroyo had told members of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) during the Thursday meeting at Malacañang was that she could not talk to her allies in the Senate to convince them to take part in the House-initiated assembly.

"She told us that she cannot and will not participate in an issue that is between the House and Senate," he said.

Verceles said the local executives were discussing with Ms Arroyo possible ways of solving the impasse between the Senate and the House.

"It was implied that Malacañang could come in, and the President said, 'We can't come into that,'" Verceles said.

He said the discussion was conducted at the Palace Guest House after a dinner hosted by the President for the Ulap members.

He also said Ms Arroyo had told the Ulap members to talk with the senators about the latter's participation in Con-ass "if you believe that that is the right thing to do."

Unacceptable

Vice President Noli de Castro said the people would not accept Charter change without their participation and that of the Senate.

De Castro said the House should realize that the "great debate" on Charter change should not be limited to its halls or members because, in the end, it was the people's voice that should prevail.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Sunday, December 10, 2006

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5		Ringside		PBA										Final 3 Journey Special		Worst Case Scenario		Light Talk	
ABS-CBN 2	Your Song	Lovespell		The Buzz				TV Patrol World	Goin' Bulilit (6:45PM)		Rated K (7:45PM)		Sharon (8:45PM)		Pinoy Dream Academy		Chicken Run		
AXN		What's The Worst That Could Happen				AXN Xtreme Macau	Samsung Sports World	WRC 2006 Great Britain		The Amazing Race (Season X)		The Amazing Race Asia		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)		CSI: NY (Season 2)		CSI: Miami (Season 4)	
bTV		TV Shopping		NBA Rockets @ Wizards					NBA Jam Local	EUROLeague Kaunas vs Moscow				NBA Fantasy Hoops	NBA Rockets @ Wizards				
Cartoon Network																	The Brak Show		
Cinema One				Singsing Ni Lola				Bakit Di Totohanin				Blackboard				Ang Bang Meron Ka?			
Cinemax	Arlington Road (2:45PM)				Waterworld (4:45PM)					Dog Park				The Stepford Wives (2004)				Rage Of Honor	
CNN	Next@CNN	World News	Living Golf/Living Golf Man Sat/Art Of Life	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Inside The Middle East/CNN Bus. Traveller/Global Office/Global Challenges	World News	World Sport	Talk Asia	Living Golf/Living Golf Man Sat/Art of Life	World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Late Edition Live	
Crime/Suspense		Profiler		Without A Trace		Law and Order: Special Victims Unit		C/S Chronicles: Cold Case Files		Revelations		Threshold		Without A Trace		Oz		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice	
Discovery Channel		How Do They Do It	Mean Machines	American Chopper		Tribe		Mythbusters		Hour Asia		Cathay Pacific Signature Series		Sinking of an Aircraft Carrier		Extreme Machines		Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Maya & Miguel	Totally Spies		Kim Possible	Lilo & Stitch	Hannah Montana	American Dragon Yr. 2	Emperor's New School	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Mr. Bean	Wonderful World Of Disney			America's Funniest Home Video	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mortified	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Billiards Int'l Events '05		Atlantic Coast Conf.: George Mason Vs Duke				Australian Open Golf C'ship '06 Finals				NFL's Greatest Moments		NFL Football: Panthers @ Eagles					
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Insider Weekend	Rated Oh! 6	American Dreams		One Tree Hill		America's Next Top Model		Friends	Simple Life 4	Project Runway		Nip/ Tuck		Rated Oh! 6	Insider Weekend
ETC 2nd Avenue		Blow Out 2		Today Show - 1 Hour - Version		Dateline		Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News	WSJR	Nanny 911		The Director		Showbiz Moms and Dads		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One
Fox News		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Heartland With John Kasich		The Line Up		The Journal Editorial Report	Beltway Boys	Fox & Friends Sunday						Fox News Live	
GMA 7	Gigsters	Love To Love		S-Files				Mahiwagang Baul		Hooo U?		Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
Hallmark Channel				Doc Martin		Micro Mini Kids				Legend of the Lost Tomb				Mysterious Island				Mysterious Island	
HBO			XXX: The Next Level (3:45PM)				Protocol			American Pie Band Camp			New On The Big Screen In Dec	Hitch				Mad City	
Hero TV	Knights Remune NG	Pretty Cure	Starship Operators	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Mask Rider Faiz	Justirisers	Power Rangers Dino Thunder	Suzuka	Offside	Baki The Grappler	GPX Cyber Formula	G3	H3 TV Special	Weekend Marathon Yu-Gi-Oh!/Yu-Gi-Oh! Weekends				PeaceMaker	Starship Operators
IBC 13		Ang Bang Hanap Mo?	Custom Rides	Phil World Pool Championship							Mommy Academy	Pinoy Action Hits				Iyo Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
JackTV				Comedy Central	Premium Blend	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Daily Show Jon Stewart	Distraction	Banzai	American Dad	Family Guy	WWE Smackdown				South Park	Drawn Together	Crank Yankers	Dr. Katz
Lifestyle Network	Embellish This	DIY: Crafts	The Great Adventure	Your Private Island	Fine Living Special		Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Wolfgang Puck	Food Network Special		E! Entertainment Special		The Crusaders PM				Fashion Trance	
MTV Philippines	Ultrasound Kwan	MTV Hits	MTV News	Celebrity Deathmatch	Homecoming	Sexe	Boiling Points	Pimp My Ride	Yo Momma	Punk'd	Trick It Out	2006 MTV Staying Alive Music Summit for HIV/AIDS						MTV Screen	Sessions Hala
MYX		Pinoy MYX Countdown				Take 5	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Presents			MYX Hit Chart			MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic		Mega Asia		Best Of The Week		ShowReal Asia S3		Mad Lab		Hollywood Sauna		Best Of The Week		ShowReal Asia S3		Nat Geo Investigates		Nat Geo Investigates	Unlimited Diving
NBN		Tinig Ng Bayan		World Pool Championship								The Games Of Your Life Primer	TM Tara Masters Challenge	The Sports List		Best And Brightest			
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Quadriga	The Planet	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Pagbubunyag		Net 25 Weekend Report	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tribe	Convergence	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Tamang Daan		Net 25 Weekend Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Asian Anime Fest: Avatar: The Legend of Aang/Kappa Mikey		The X's	Danny Phantom	Trollz	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Wooly Booly 1 (Ang Classmate Kong Alien)				Jelangkung				Wanted Perfect Mother				The Love Concert				Misteryosa
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Elementar Gerald		Bongga Ka Star		Ang Pinaka		Pop Star Kids		May Trabaho Ka		Sunday Super Sine				Dahil Sa Iyong Paglisan	
RPN 9						World Poker Tour		WWE Experience		WWE Smackdown				Sunday's Big Event					The Working President
SBN 21				Buhay Pinoy		Sheperds Voice		New Life				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Gabay At Aksyon			
Solar Sports				Motoring Today		ITZ		Billiards: US 9 Ball	Bikini Destination	Celebrity Poker				Boxing				World Game	
Star Movies	Back To The Future				The Rocketeer				Sahara (6:20PM)				Opening Night: Eragon	Because Of Winn-Dixie				The Fast And The Furious	
Star World		The Office	Two And A Half Men	NCIS		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	Ed		Desperate Housewives		Oprah Prime Time		NCIS		Desire: Table For Three		Hollywood Shootout	Oprah Prime Time
Studio 23								Studio 23 Presents Special Edition			Y-Speak		Gag Itol	US Girls	Desperate Housewives		Digital Tour (10:45PM)	Badminton Extreme	
UnTV				KNC Show	Ang Dating Daan			Usapang Crusada				Believer TV		Ang Dating Daan					

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

200-Palace vehicle convoy to deliver typhoon relief goods to Bicol

MALACAÑANG IS ORGANIZING A 200-VEHICLE caravan from Luneta to Bicol to deliver relief goods and medical aid to the victims of supertyphoon "Reming."

Dubbed "Malacañang to Mayon Mercy Mission," the convoy will leave Manila on Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the organization of the convoy was approved during the National Disaster Coordinating Council meeting yesterday.

Ermita said the assembly point is the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard in Pasay City.

In Albay, disaster officials evacuated 70,000 residents from 42 villages as new typhoon "Seniang" was expected to bring heavy rainfall that could trigger flashfloods and possible mudslides down Mayon volcano.

Villagers from Legazpi, Tabaco, Ligao, Daraga, Guinobatan, Camalig and Sto. Domingo were brought to safeholding areas as early as 6 a.m. yesterday.

The most feared hazards were mudflows and flashfloods as river channels were already silted.

Jukes Nuñez of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council, said pickup points and holding areas were identified by officials as early as Friday night.

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Cynthia D. Balana with Ephraim Aguilar, Delma Peyra and Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon

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2N SIN. VIA PAL $214 | 3D/2N K. LUMPUR $218
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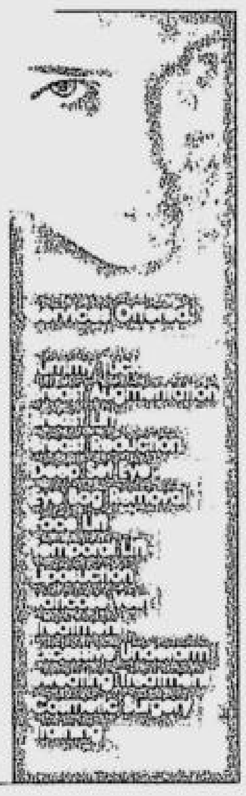

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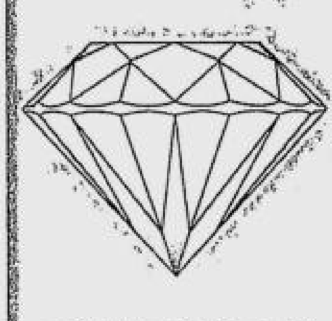

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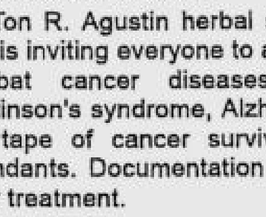

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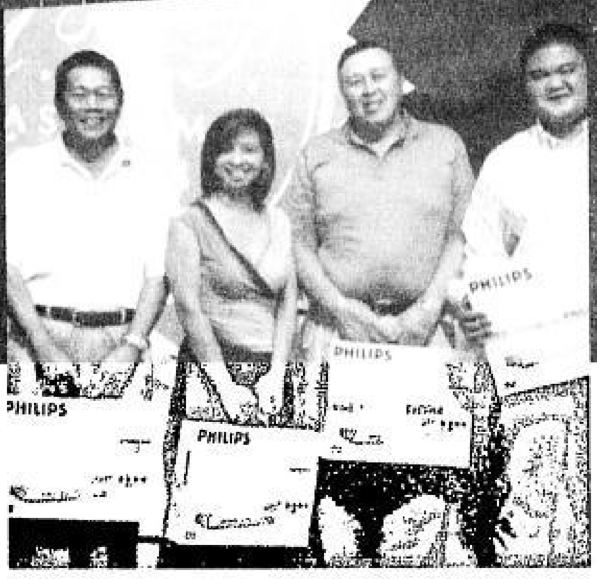
...At the year's most awaited Golf event: the MV

▲
AirFreight2100, Inc. Chairman, Bert Lina.



Team competition champions from L-R: National Teachers College COO, Oscar Arguelles, PLDT VP, Finina Gorres, House of Investments EVP, Perry Uy, and Transglobal Consolidators President, Paul Louie Tugade.

2nd Runner-up winners for the team competition from L-R: Metro Pacific Director, Augie Palisoc, Pru Life President, Estelito Madrid, and Golden Arches Development Corp. President Kenneth Yang.

MVP Awards Auction [illegible] President Dr. Jason [illegible] the overa

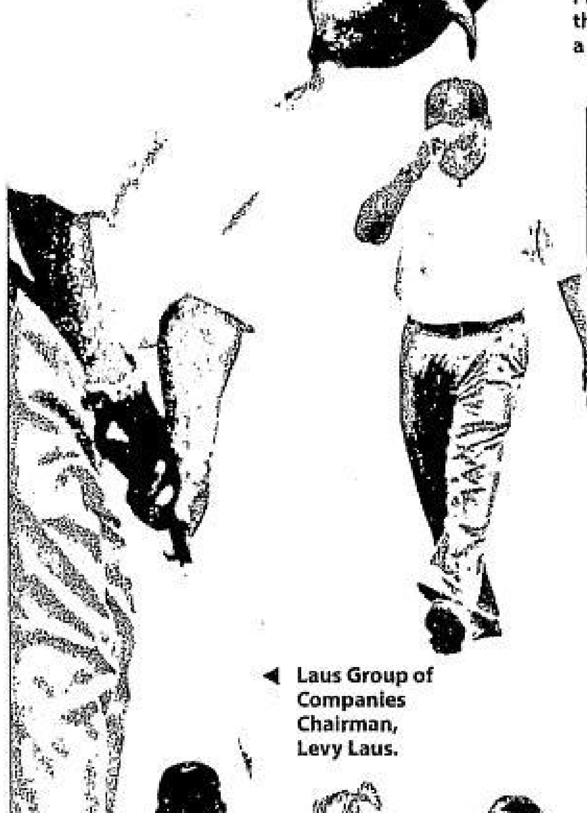
Advanced Contact Solutions President and CEO, Vic Endaya wins the Grand Raffle prize, bringing home a brand new Honda Civic.

e-Telecare VP, Rick Pusag is the Class C 2nd Runner-up.

C orporate golfers pulled up at the balmy S Elena Golf Club at the crack of dawn to wa up and give their tee shots a rip at the boom the shot gun. A lot of meticulous planning g into this annual tournament as loyal clients fr leading companies are invited to play. MVP Pasasalamat G is a celebration of PLDT's valued partnerships with co rate clients who have continuously given their trust confidence to the leading telco for their ICT requirements.

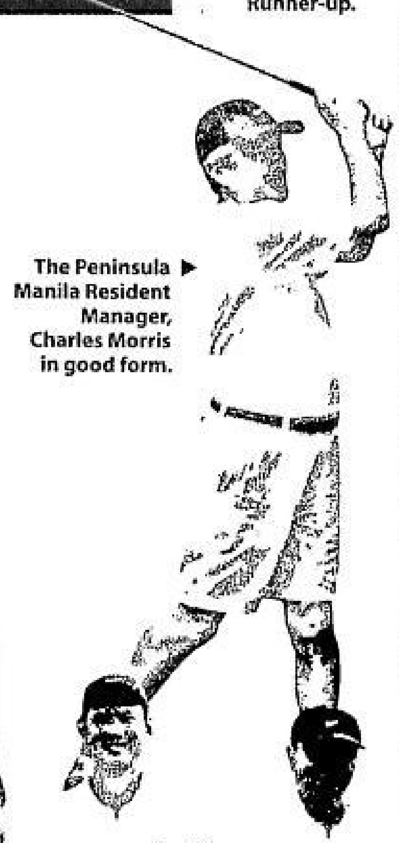
For the last five years, the tournament has been venue for the corporate elite to take their skills in the boa room and apply them on the green. It was a friendly nonetheless highly competitive golf tournament that saw PLDT's most valuable partners drive it out on Sta. Elena fairways. As distinguished moguls and PLDT executives p their drive to the test, it was very clear that PLDT held partners and clients in the highest regard. Truly, everyone been looking forward to this prestigious annual event.

"We value the trust and confidence you h continually placed in the PLDT Group as we enable y businesses with the necessary ICT solutions," said Eric Alberto, PLDT SVP and Head of Corporate Business Gro during the awarding ceremonies after the tournament.



◀ Laus Group of Companies Chairman, Levy Laus.

3rd Runner-up Winners of the Team Competition from L-R: Business Processing Association of the Philippines Executive Director, Mitch Locsin, Avaya Philippines Country Manager Ed Doctolero, Contact Center Association of the Philippines Executive Director, Jojo Uligan, and Telus Country Manager Dion Asencio.



The Peninsula Manila Resident Manager, Charles Morris in good form. ▶

Perry's Group of Companies President and CEO, Arthur Tugade is the Class B 2nd Runner-up.

ay. . .

P Pasasalamat Golf tournament.

> "This evening is a thanksgiving celebration for all of you. You are our valued customers and trusted partners. On behalf of the PLDT Group, thank you very much."

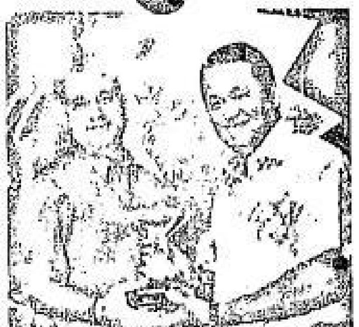
Golden Arches President, Kenneth Yang is the 2nd Runner-up winner for good reason.

champion of the 2005 MVP Cup tournament.

After the challenging round of golf, guests were treated to a sumptuous dinner, followed by a premium raffle where lucky players took away lots of generous prizes. Trophies were also awarded to outstanding teams and individual players whose skills stood out on the fairways. To top everything off, the grand raffle saw Vic Endaya of Advanced Contact Solutions take home a brand new Honda Civic while Asiaphil's Vic Batungbacal won a Toyota Avanza.

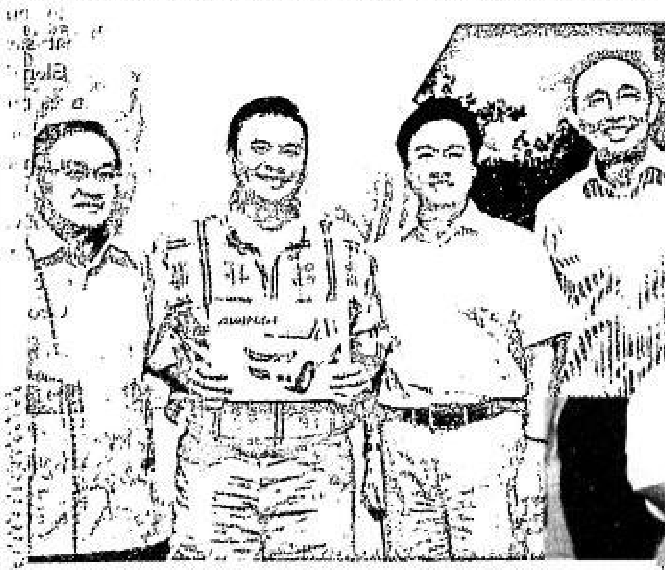
"This evening is a thanksgiving celebration for all of you," said PLDT Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan as he addressed the distinguished guests, "You are our valued customers and trusted partners. On behalf of the PLDT Group, thank you very much."

PLDT Global Corporations President and CEO, Al Panlilio is the PLDT Division 2nd Runner-up.



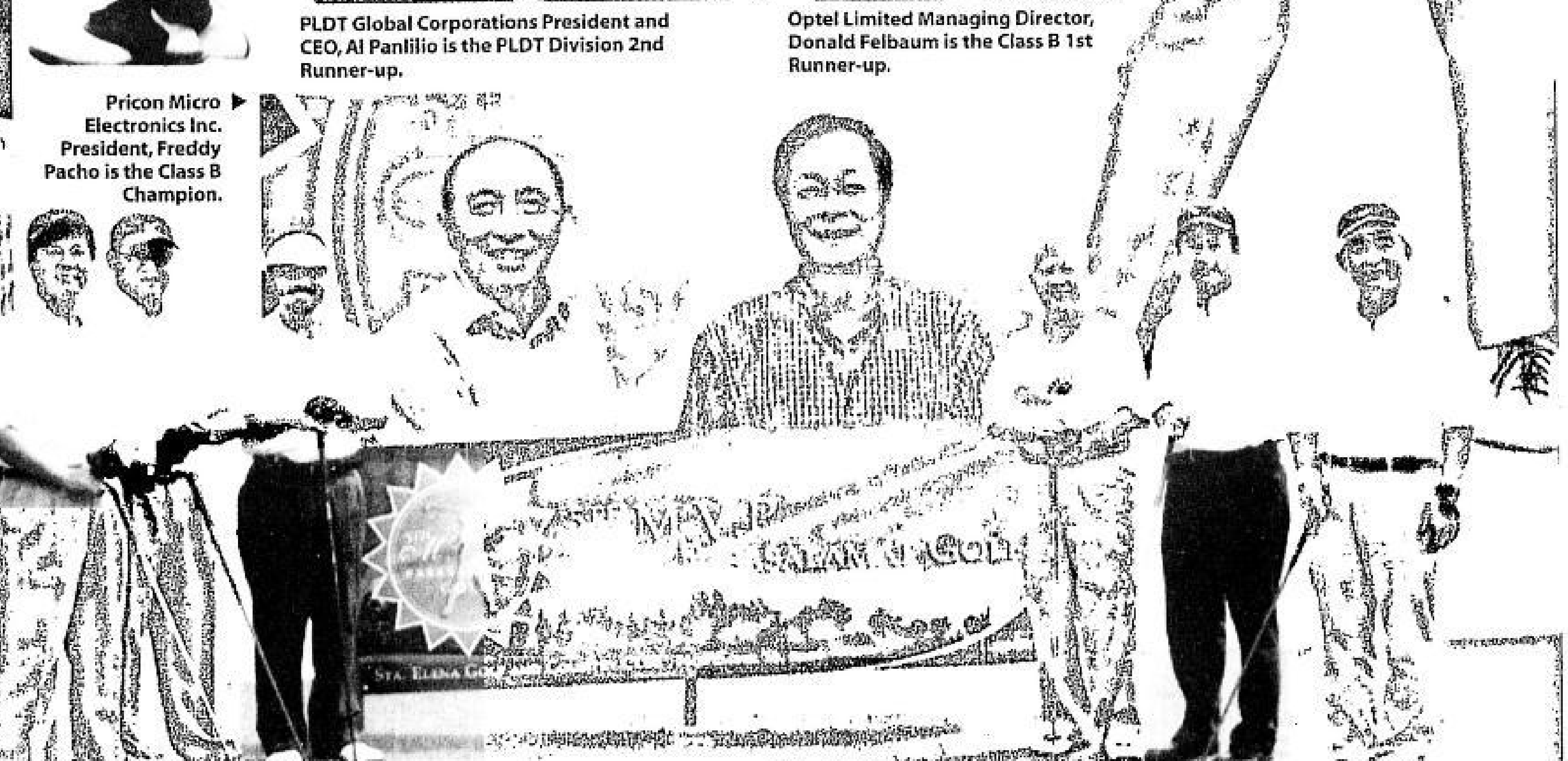
Optel Limited Managing Director, Donald Felbaum is the Class B 1st Runner-up.

Pricon Micro Electronics Inc. President, Freddy Pacho is the Class B Champion.



AsiaPhil Manufacturing Ltd. President, Vic Batungbacal wins a Toyota Avanza. Joining him from L-R: PLDT and Smart Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan, Federal Land President, Alfred Ty, and PLDT and Smart CEO and President, Napoleon Nazareno.

Class A Champion Airlift Asia Chairman, Rico Brizuela.



NTT Communications Sr. Executive Advisor and Board Director, Tsuyoshi Kawashima, PLDT SVP and Head of Corporate Business Group Eric Alberto, Bureau of Treasury National Treasurer, Omar Cruz, PLDT Board Director, Oscar Reyes, Federal Land President and PLDT Director Alfred Ty, and NTT Communications Chief Operating Advisor and Board Director Tatsu Kono kick off the 5th MVP Pasasalamat Golf Tournament.

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OPINION

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To the streets

EDITORIAL

THE RETREAT OF THE MAJORITY COALITION IN the House on the issue of a constituent assembly—couched as a challenge to the Senate to help form a constitutional convention **in 72 hours**—is a reminder that, in post-Marcos Philippines, Congress must contend with history's shadow: the parliament of the streets.

We hasten to add: As of this writing, the retreat Speaker Jose de Venecia and his allies sounded is very much a tactical one. Sen. Joker Arroyo may be alone, at this time, in thinking that De Venecia's extraordinary news conference yesterday was a clear sign that Charter change was dead. Sometimes, as in the case of zombies and vampires, death is overrated.

But it is clear that the gathering political storm over the House majority's brazen attempt to fast-track self-serving changes in the Constitution has spooked the leaders of the administration. Whether one thinks the unusual decision to postpone the 12th summit of Asean heads of government in Cebu was caused by the administration's need to contain the political fallout from the House majority's passage of the controversial resolution or not, public outrage is unmistakable, and growing.

Since the Hello Garci scandal broke last year, the influential Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines had effectively given the Arroyo administration the benefit of the doubt. But after the House majority passed the resolution that, in its eyes, convened Congress as a constituent assembly even without Senate action, the bishops spoke out against the legislative voodoo. They called for prayer rallies in the country's 86 dioceses, to impress upon the members of the majority coalition that a patent disregard of constitutional restrictions was not only illegal; because the House action benefited the congressmen directly, it was also immoral.

The country's two resident cardinals, both of whom are famously non-political, called on the Catholic faithful to take to the public square; the CBCP president, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of Jaro, Iloilo, issued a statement that was impossible to misread as other than the faithful's marching orders.

In the last few days, they have been joined by Christian evangelist Eddie Villanueva and his Jesus is Lord Movement; the national network of religious congregations which had done so much to protect civil liberties during the martial law regime; and many Protestant churches and, not least, the pivotal Iglesia ni Cristo, which has demonstrable political clout.

They all followed the lead of Catholic charismatic evangelist Mike Velarde, the famous founder of the El Shaddai Catholic renewal group, who had warned the House majority, on the eve of the fateful vote, that while he had always been for Charter change, he would not support any attempt to change the Constitution without the participation of the Senate.

It is fair to say that this array of forces is the most formidable coalition seen since January 2001—that is to say, since Edsa II. Some critics have aired their discomfort over the role religious leaders and movements are again playing in the parliament of the streets. But the outrage over the House majority's legislative coup is not religious in character; it is eminently moral.

The idea of democracy depends on the concept of limitation. The branches of government must check-and-balance one another; the Bill of Rights serves to protect the citizen from the state; judges should exercise self-restraint and wait for a legal controversy to reach them. And—today's crux of the matter—a bicameral system requires both chambers to agree on a measure or an action.

The idea that only one chamber can convene Congress into a constituent assembly is absurd on its face; De Venecia's House has acted as though the Constitution has already been revised, and the Senate consigned to history. This act is not only patently illegal and constitutionally infirm; it is also immoral—the naked use of power to serve one's own ends. The question that haunted Philippine politics two generations ago has returned to unnerve all of us: "What are we in power for?"

We support the religious leaders' appeal to fill the public square with our cries of outrage and our acts of supplication. It is time, again, to remind the administration that, like the public's patience, the limit has finally been reached.

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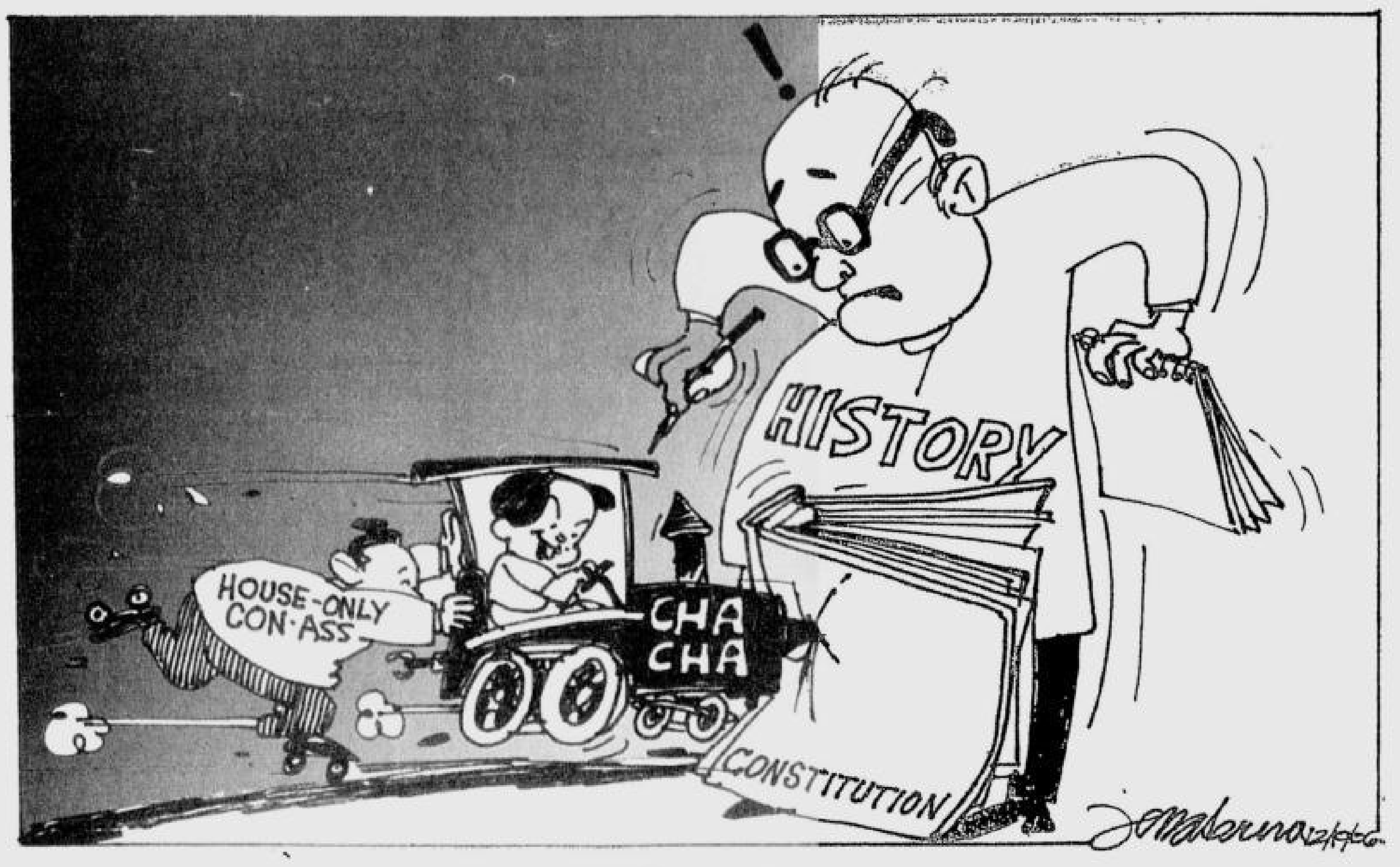

A time for change?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IN QUOTING THE METAPHOR THAT "THE Constitution must be firm and immovable, like a mountain amidst the strife of storms or a rock in the ocean amidst the raging of the waves," I did not mean that the Charter must be permanent and immutable like the Ten Commandments. I believe in Justice Cardozo's gentle refutation that "the inn that shelters for the night is not the journey's end. The Constitution, like the traveler, must be ready for the morrow."

As Justice Winslow put it, "the political or philosophical aphorism of one generation is doubted by the next and entirely discarded by the third. The race moves forward constantly and no Canute can stay its progress." Canute was a wise king who, impatient with his unctuous subjects who said he could do anything, took them to the seashore where he showed how the waves disobeyed him when he ordered them to keep still.

Another figure worth recalling from the ancient myths is Procrustes, a tyrant who tied his victims to fit his bed and stretched their legs if they were too short and cut them off if they were too long. This has led to the legal maxim that the Constitution should not be made to fit the bed of Procrustes as the unchanging legal yardstick of its validity and efficacy. The prevailing view now is that the nation, and the Constitution that governs it, cannot remain static.

One advantage of the written Constitution is its permanence or its capacity to resist capricious or whimsical change dictated not by legitimate needs but only by passing fancies, temporary passions or occasional infatuations with ideas or personalities, mostly undeserving. Such a document is not likely to be tampered with to suit political expediency, personal ambitions, or agitation for its ill-advised amendment or replacement.

That is the reason for the difficult process devised for the amendment or revision of the fundamental law. The purpose is to discourage its alteration except when it is absolutely necessary as found by the people with their welfare as their uncompromising and solitary criterion. Pride of authorship is only a minor objection. It is ultimately the higher purposes of the nation that will determine if the changes proposed should be zealously undertaken or flatly rejected.

The Philippines has over the past several years been engrossed over the need for the reexamination of the 1987 Constitution and the methods to effect its change. One of these, the initiative, has recently failed, but the two other processes have yet to be tried and the first of these is gaining ground among its advocates. The House of Representatives is now working for this alternative choice, facetiously called the Con-ass. It is the conversion of Congress into a constituent assembly to propose a revision of the Constitution with the concurrence of three-fourths of all its members.

The meaning of the vote requirement is a basic issue dividing the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate, which is likely to be abolished with the establishment of an envisioned unicameral legislature, is unwilling to join the Con-ass. The House of Representatives says it can function by itself and muster the three-fourths vote from its membership alone, without the Senate. The Senate contends that Congress is a bicameral body and its two Houses should act together unless otherwise clearly provided.

The conflict is between the letter of the law that should be interpreted literally and the spirit of the law that should disclose its real intention. Ultimately, it is the Supreme Court that will clarify the incredible negligence committed by the framers of the 1987 Constitution who merely copied the pertinent provisions of the 1973 Constitution that established a unicameral Batasang Pambansa.

I am among the majority of our people who feel that the present Constitution should be reexamined with a view to correcting its many shortcomings as revealed by instructive experience over the past 20 years. In previous articles in this column, I have mentioned several of its human failings, not to simply carp but in a sincere effort to contribute to the improvement of what after all is the paramount law of the Philippines. It deserves the concern and respect of all of us citizens as the imperfect guaranty of our rights and attainable expectations.

But I do not think this is the proper time to amend or revise it. The nation is too polarized by partisan hostilities and suspicions of personal ambitions that cannot insure an objective study of the changes that can make the Constitution an effective instrument for the enhancement of the common welfare. This humble citizen believes that we should first wait for the dust to settle after all this political turmoil now gripping us, before we can sit down together in peace and harmony to chart a better future for our country.

Meanwhile, let us forget our present animosities and share in the joy and goodwill of the festive Yuletide.

Keep right, go straight

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THERE IS A STORY ABOUT A PRIEST WHO told his parishioners that he would be preaching about the sin of lying the following Sunday. In preparation for that, he urged them to read Chapter 17 of the Gospel of Mark. When he asked the following Sunday how many read Mark Chapter 17, almost every hand went up. Whereupon he said: "Mark has only 16 chapters. Let's proceed now with our topic this morning about the sin of lying."

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 3, 1-6), we are told that John the Baptist came out of the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance, echoing the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight His paths." Now, more than ever, we must heed these words, especially the leaders who continue to lie, manipulate, abuse and confuse our people. Let Advent be a real time for soul-searching and reckoning for all of us. Let's all go back to sincerity and truthfulness without which there can be no real moving on.

* * *

The problem with those who lie is that they think and actually believe that they can go on and on with their lying, and continue to get away with it. Wrong. They will be uncovered, and they will suffer the fate of the liars who went before them.

* * *

When a liar is cornered or battered, the ideal scenario is that he kneels down in humility and repents. But often, that is not the case for often the liar is also a good escape artist, and relies on more lies just to get out of trouble. Is there hope for liars? Yes, there is, and that is if they listen to the voice of God within. As long as the conscience is silenced, muffled and disregarded, there can be no real conversion.

* * *

I was in Cebu last week for an Advent recollection at the Pink Sisters' convent. What struck me were the instant face-lifting efforts being undertaken all over the city in preparation for the Asean Summit. Just like our Advent preparations which are often just external and temporary. Let us all strive for constant, real, internal conversion.

* * *

Last Dec. 8, I was at Dinalupihan, Bataan upon the invitation of Mayor Joel Payumo for an Advent recollection with teachers. It was our way of honoring these hardworking and often unnoticed and neglected public servants. On a personal note, it was my way of honoring my mother on her 85th birthday. For she, too was a public school teacher for 30 years, most of which were spent in a small barrio called Bani in Pangasinan. Indeed, it is the lowly and not so much those in high places that make a difference in people's lives.

* * *

Lest we forget, there are real people with real and urgent needs this very moment, especially our brothers and sisters in Bicol. Let us not become like our politicians who, instead of helping our suffering people, are so busy in helping themselves and their political future. Instead of serving, they are so busy fixing self-serving provisions for themselves. Shame! Shame on us, too, if we focus only on our personal and family preparations, and forget our outreach for the less fortunate this Christmas.

* * *

A lot of things will unfold these coming days that could affect us as a nation, but please remember that in the end goodness will triumph over evil. Let us not lose heart when it seems that truth, justice and goodness don't have a place anymore in our society. Let us hold to the promise that "every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." It took a lowly, honest prophet like John the Baptist, and not the politicians like Tiberius, Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Herod and Philip who made straight the path. Likewise in our time, it will be people like you and me, searching and standing for the truth—not our so-called leaders—who will make straight the path of our nation.

* * *

We heard the sad news about the brutal murder of Assistant Solicitor General Nestor Ballacillo and his son Benedict. I knew Nestor. He was a humble, simple and sincere seminarian. Police are saying that the murder was "work-related." Nowadays, honest and truthful people are pressured, harassed, or even eliminated in our country.

* * *

Someone sent me a text message wishing me a Merry Christmas, which he said might be postponed this year in this country, where an Asean Summit can be postponed and where truth can be easily manipulated. Merry Christmas everyone!

* * *

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (2 Timothy 4:7) See the Word through everyday stories and reflections, text, ON<SPACE>moments and send to 2948 for Globe/sun or 3940 for Smart. God bless you. Mama Mary loves you!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me to keep right and go straight. Amen.

Random notes

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

TRAVEL ADVISORIES: SO FAR, THE UNITED States, Great Britain and Australia have issued travel advisories warning their citizens against travelling to Cebu where Asean leaders and other dialogue partners will get together for a series of summit meetings during the next few days.

The British and Australian advisories appear to be a bit more specific, warning "that terrorists are in the final stages of planning attacks." The Philippine Star reports that British Ambassador Peter Beckingham received his information direct from London.

My question: Do our intelligence units both in the AFP and PNP coordinate these matters with their foreign counterparts so as to protect everyone from possible violence and harm? Both the AFP and PNP spokespersons have indicated that their organizations are prepared for all contingencies though they have not received reports of validated threats. Let us hope their assessments are correct. It would be disastrous for the nation and for the reputation of security and intelligence forces if any kind of terrorism materializes during the summit. We are not referring to organized protests and demonstrations but to terrorist activities aimed at causing death and destruction.

One last word. We must also keep up our guard here in Metro Manila. With all attention focused on Cebu, any terror activities within the nation's capital would have the same effect on the country's image.

(Late breaker: The summit has been postponed for next month. Somehow I am reminded that the first time the Philippines hosted a similar event in December 1987, there were serious security concerns which brought up proposals to postpone the summit. After much discussion and consultations with Asean member nations, it was decided to push through with the December schedule, but under the thickest security blanket one could imagine.)

* * *

Charter change bullet train: Heard from the grapevine. Initially it was difficult to muster a quorum to get the train moving. Envelopes were distributed ... P50,000 and accompanied by a Christmas card. Aside from being small change, *may* Christmas card *pa*, indicating that the envelope also represented Christmas greetings from the "Boss"! After much grumbling, a thicker envelope was prepared, this time without a Christmas card. The train slowly began to move, gaining momentum as the envelopes reached their recipients. Separate Christmas greetings will be sent in another envelope at the appropriate time. And if necessary, another one for the New Year.

The new constitution—unless the bullet train is derailed somewhere along the way—will go down as one of the most expensive in our history.

* * *

Department of Tango Charlie: One of the most militarized Cabinet departments in our government today is the Department of Transportation and Communications or Tango Charlie in the military alphabet lingo.

The secretary is Leandro Mendoza, PMA Class 1969. An undersecretary and assistant secretary are also from the military—Cecilio Penilla, Class 1968 and Roberto Lastimoso, Class 1967. The Land Transportation Office is headed by Reynaldo Berroya, Class 1969, while the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board is chaired by Thompson Lantion also of Class 1969. They may all be qualified for their posts, but isn't there some kind of overkill in this situation?

Mendoza is practically calling a command conference each time he summons his staff and agency heads for a meeting—just like the old times! The Air Transportation Office is also headed by a retired Air Force general and the Coast Guard, run by former Navy officers, is now an agency of the DOTC.

Incidentally, Mendoza's cousin, the Rev. Eliezer Tendero of San Juan, Batangas is currently the pastor of the Living Hope of Calvary, a Baptist congregation in Evanston, Illinois. Tendero used to be the head of the Makati-based Hope for the World congregation before his posting in the United States. Aside from being the first Filipino pastor of Living Hope—previous pastors were all Swedish—Tendero also serves as the chaplain of the Evanston police department and is a member of the board of the Midwest Baptist Conference in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

Bishop Efraim Tendero, national director of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches, is an older brother of Eliezer.

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Iraq Study Group (ISG) Report: The long-awaited ISG Report, prepared by a bipartisan panel of five Democrats and five Republicans, has just been released. It gave failing marks to almost all policies of the Bush administration regarding Iraq.

As of today, the war in Iraq has already lasted longer than the World War II and is costing the United States almost $8 billion a month, with more expenses waiting to be settled. The final cost is estimated to run as high as $2 trillion. In terms of casualties, the United States has suffered more than 2,900 dead—not as much as in other conflicts, but the civilian fatalities on the Iraqi side make it one of the bloodiest for any nation.

Among the ISG's 79 recommendations are for negotiations with Syria and Iran over the future of Iraq and a dramatic increase of US forces involved in training Iraqi Army units. "We do not recommend a 'stay-the-course' solution," said James Baker III, co-chair of the group.

Fools rush in

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

ALBAY IS IN RUINS. ITS COCONUT INDUSTRY IS DEVASTATED, and its people dig in the muck for anything they can use or wear or sleep on. The province was just recovering from the damage "Milenyo" wrought when "Reming" swooped in and destroyed the little that was left. In the news, a bewildered man in a yellow windbreaker stands on a flat plain of mud, an envelope of dollars clutched in his hand. He has just come back from overseas, the envelope holds all the money he saved and scrimped to bring home to his family this Christmas. But they are all gone now, and he does not know where there bodies are. Children wailing over lost fathers, and mothers looking for toddlers crowd into shelters with no electricity, little potable water and just the clothes on their backs.

And when the devastation was at its height, the congressman of Albay's first district, Rep. Edcel Lagman, worked through to the wee hours of the morning. The representative, however, was not in Albay, toiling along with volunteers. Neither was he rallying his people or attempting to raise more funds. The good representative was in Manila, along with his fellows, seen live over national TV. It seems as if muscling his way around the law and smooth-talking the gullible—or more spineless—members of the House of Representatives were more of a pressing matter than, say, a few thousand of his dying constituents.

Last Tuesday, close to midnight, the kindly gentlemen from the House of Representatives decided to ignore the fact that Congress is composed of two chambers. They pushed on to change the House rules, claiming that all that was needed to change the Constitution was a majority vote from Congress. Their definition of Congress, however, is quite revolutionary. They wanted a vote from a combined majority of the 231 representatives and 23 senators.

There is a reason why there are two houses in Congress, and why laws need to be passed separately in both House and Senate. It is because one is supposed to balance the other, with the presumption that the schemes of scoundrels in one house can be countered by wiser men in another. That there are only 24 men and women in the Senate does not make them any less powerful than the House of Representatives. Each senator is a national representative, voted into position not only by one district, as is the case with members of the House, but by the entire country. Their power to veto is just as strong as that of the 231-strong numbers of the House. What the House is essentially doing is reducing the power of the Senate to a paltry percentage of theirs.

I am not against any sort of constitutional change. What I am against is the sacrificing of law and precedent and basic ethics for the sake of constitutional change. The way the shift to a parliamentary government is packaged is as if it is the last and only way to drag the country out of the mire. As one supporter dramatically puts it, "The alternative to [Charter] change is stagnation, and in our day and age, this is the same as to perish." This sort of rhetoric is what seems to justify a belief that anything can be done with impunity, for the sake of an ambiguous "greater good."

Defenders of the controversial constituent assembly have been applauding the audacity of their friends from the House. "Whatever one's position might be on the matter of convening a constituent assembly," says one stalwart advocate, "the elaborate strategy unveiled Tuesday night must at least be credited for audacity ... Audacity is needed to cut through the conservative fog."

Another columnist justifies this "audacious" move as "the only way out of our political gridlock, where both chambers of Congress as well as Malacañang and the Senate are constantly at odds."

These supporters argue as if audacity is a fundamental good, as if such big words will deodorize the stench of the House's underhanded dealings. Perhaps, it would be best to determine what precisely "audacity" is, before it is conferred like a crown on those who are little more than parliamentary thugs. At best, audacity means daring, at worst, it is effrontery, insolence and shameless boldness with arrogant disregard for standard principles.

To defend audacity as a value in a vacuum is a dangerous thing. Marcos was audacious when he dropped the iron fist of martial law on the country. Hitler was audacious when he began gassing Jews and burying them by the thousand. And it was great audacity that led hijackers to crash planes into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. Audacity always comes with the excuse of a supreme cause and it is dangerous in the hands of people who have convinced themselves that they are messiahs for change. This is why law exists, not only so that the idiot on the street will not grab someone's handbag and say he's entitled; it also exists so that idiots sitting in the House will not grab mandates and say they are entitled.

One congressman was interviewed on television, and had the audacity—and I use the word appropriately—to complain that the public was judging the House coalition members unjustly with blanket statements referring to their appalling morals. Another columnist goes so far as to say that these congressmen were being "unfairly demonized," when all they wanted was for the senators to "be patriotic enough to put the country's interest ahead of their own political ambitions, and sit down with the House members to fulfill their constituent function to amend the Constitution."

These great men in the House of Representatives are merely fighting against those who offer "fierce resistance" because of "vested interests." I'm not so innocent as to claim that the senators have no political ambitions or personal interests by decrying the House's move, but neither will I buy the ridiculous assumption that the men and women who raised the pork barrel last year have a monopoly on patriotism.

Many have spoken against the Con-ass; both church and civic groups have expressed their outrage. The Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines seems to have realized the impact of the House's move, and has appealed directly to the Chief Executive. Today, Speaker Jose de Venecia came out with his statement and has reined in his rampaging House. It seems as if audacity has its limits.

In Filipino, we have a word for it, and it is one that needs no definition. We call it *garapalan*.

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Joe and his gang scale a mountain

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

JOE AND HIS GANG DECIDED ONE DAY TO scale a mountain. This wasn't as easy as it sounded because there were many obstacles in their path. There was the posse headed by Frank, Manny and Dick who didn't want them to reach the top because Joe and his minions would push them off the mountain. There were the sanctimonious men in robes who, so Joe and his friends thought, believed they were the guardians of the mountain. There were even various creatures inhabiting the mountain slopes—noisy monkeys, buzzing insects, twittering birds who endlessly annoyed Joe and his gang.

But Joe and his gang had an important friend—Aling Gloring who lorded it over the mountain and secretly gave them money, supplies and moral support because she believed Joe and his gang would help secure her rickety shack on the mountain.

Joe and his gang first explored the ConAss path, the easiest route to the mountaintop, but they couldn't even get past the lower slopes where Frank and his friends waited. "Get out of our way, you're preventing us from reaching greater heights!" Joe shouted with all his might. But Frank and his posse stood their ground, snickering among themselves.

Joe fumed, and turned to his allies, the snakes who lay curled up in the trees around the mountain's slippery slope. "The only way we can get around Frank and his friends is to get the monkeys, insects and birds on our side," the snakes said. So Joe whispered: "OK, but you have to do it yourselves because those stupid creatures will get suspicious if they know Aling Gloring and I are behind you," he said.

* * *

AND so the snakes began slithering around the trees, hillocks, rocks and ferns, their sibilant hisses filled with promises of a better future for the birds and insects, their sinuous forms tempting the monkeys who were jealously guarding their bananas.

"If you would only let Joe and his gang up the mountain, they will be able to provide you with abundant rainfall and lots of sunshine and everyone will have a better life," hissed the snakes.

The snakes managed to win over some creatures on their side, but a lot more birds, insects and monkeys remained indifferent to the snakes' call. Some of the creatures even managed to get together and agree to sign a petition which they brought to the robed guardians of the mountain.

"The snakes have been using underhanded tactics on us," they complained. "They tricked some insects into buzzing in favor of their petition. They held out seeds and ripe fruits before some birds who were going hungry. They even convinced the monkeys that the birds and insects would raid their stash of bananas! We were once happy creatures sharing the forest, but now we are pitted against each other!"

The guardians of the mountain listened very carefully and talked among themselves. They didn't all agree, but they had no choice but to answer the creatures' petition. So they summoned Joe and his gang, who were cavorting with the snakes, and told their stunned assembly: "We're sorry, but you can't take this path to the top of the mountain."

* * *

JOE was livid and threatened to push the chief guardian off the face of the mountain. But he hit on the brilliant idea of launching a blitzkrieg through the ConAss path, catching Frank, Manny and Dick and the others off guard.

Actually, there was another route to the top of the mountain, called the ConCon, but this was the most difficult and hazardous, and Joe and his gang weren't sure of where it would end. So they decided to give the ConAss road one last try.

They launched their march up the ConAss in the dead of night, tying ropes around each other's waists because the gang members were apt to wander off into nightclubs or karaoke joints when they weren't yoked to each other. A few onlookers tried to stop Joe and his gang from their foolhardy course, but the gang locked arms and forced their way through the muddy path. They almost made it!

But then the birds and insects, awakened by the ruckus in the middle of the night, began to flit about the wild-eyed gang and harried them every inch of the way. The monkeys didn't like what they were hearing and seeing, and began to pelt the gang with rotten bananas. The whole mountain was in an uproar.

Joe and his gang's easy path had turned into a slippery slope, and the rocks and stones thrown their way, the banana peels and muddy footprints threatened to bring them crashing to the ground.

From up on the mountaintop, Aling Gloring saw what was happening and turned her back on her beleaguered allies.

* * *

AND so Joe and his gang beat a hasty retreat. They shouted out to Frank, Manny and Dick and the other guys in the posse that they wanted to parley. "You have no sense of humor," Joe remonstrated. "We wanted to march up with you along the ConCon path all the while, but we just wanted to see if the ConAss way was worth exploring. So why not join us now?"

But Frank, Manny and their friends remained unconvinced. Why get off their asses at all, they asked themselves, when no one was paying attention to Joe and his gang anyway?

The birds, insects and monkeys were skeptical. Years of experience with Joe and his gang tramping all over the forest, felling trees and sending snakes to harangue them had not only failed to frighten them, it had made them angry. And the late-night raid on the ConAss path was yet more proof of the nefarious intentions of that duplicitous gang.

Meanwhile, Aling Gloring was inside her hut fuming. She had invited some friends from nearby mountains to visit and she had cleaned her hut and swept her garden. But the dirt thrown up by Joe and his gang's foolish misadventure had dirtied her property. With her house and garden in a shambles, she had no choice but to call off the party.

Sideshow to a political crisis

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE ISSUE SEEMS SIMPLE ENOUGH: CAN THE House of Representatives, acting alone and without the concurrence of the Senate, exercise the constituent powers of Congress? The House majority says it can. Common sense tells us it cannot. The constitution-making powers of Congress, like its law-making powers, are lodged in Congress as a bicameral structure.

Section I, Article XVII, of the 1987 Constitution states: "Any amendment to, or revision of, this Constitution may be proposed by (1) The Congress, upon a vote of three-fourths of all its Members; or (2) A constitutional convention."

The proponents of unilateral action in the Lower House are banking on the fact that the provision only speaks of a vote of three-fourths of the members, and does not specify a separate vote for each house. Fr. Joaquin Bernas, one of the framers of the 1987 Charter, says that this formulation stems from an oversight—the wording assumed a unicameral legislature. The proposal for a unicameral Congress lost by one vote in the 1986 Constitutional Commission.

It is remarkable that the Constitution forbids both chambers, when Congress is in session, from adjourning for more than three days or from changing venue "without the consent of the other." Yet, on the more fundamental matter of proposing changes to the basic law of the land itself, the framers would allow either chamber to go ahead without the other's concurrence. If this design is intentional, it doesn't make sense.

But, let us assume that the framers of the Charter intended it to be that way. Still, this does not cancel the basic right of one chamber to decide, as a body, whether to participate in an assembly or vote initiated by the other for the purpose of proposing amendments or revisions of the Charter. Before anyone even begins to cast the first vote, the two chambers must decide as separate bodies if they want to participate in a joint session. That's not merely parliamentary courtesy; it is the rationality of a bicameral body.

It is noteworthy that Jose de Venecia's errand boys studiously avoided using the term "constituent assembly" during the debate. They seem to think that by omitting the term, they are thereby freed from the straightforward requirements of joint congressional action. It is clear they do not think the Senate's consent is crucial. With or without the Senate's concurrence, they expect the Comelec to set the plebiscite for the ratification of their proposals. Moreover, they expect the Supreme Court to uphold the validity of their acts, and they are confident that the Filipino people will ratify their proposals, including the postponement of the May 2007 elections.

One wonders where this brazenness is coming from. Someone familiar with European history might find this vaguely reminiscent of the events leading to the 1789 revolution in France. Breaking the impasse in representation, the Third Estate (the Communes) pulled the rug from under the First and Second Estates (the Clergy and the Nobles), and unilaterally declared the formation of a National Assembly, in the name of the whole nation. Once in place, the assembly converted itself into a Constituent Assembly for the purpose of drafting a new constitution. The similarity ends there however. The French Third Estate represented a rising middle class that was recoiling from the burden of the King's onerous taxes. Jose de Venecia's House, in contrast, represents a dying privileged class that is desperately trying to extend its power by changing the form of government.

Listen to the language of this dying class: its members speak of a decadent system, as if they were its hapless victims. They talk of new beginnings and modern solutions as if these things automatically produced new types of leaders and new citizens. Watch how Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself gradually distances herself from this barefaced opportunism once it is massively opposed in the streets.

But, as in revolutionary France, a strong political current is pushing our country in the direction of cataclysmic change. Born of disgust with an unjust and corrupt social order, it expresses itself as a rejection of the entire political class. Unsure of where it wants to go, it is profoundly skeptical of short-term political upheavals. It is impatient for change, but remains fearful of the future. The old political forces sense this gathering storm, and are trying to harness it to their own ends. They seek to shape it, and channel it to familiar directions. But, having been exposed, they will not succeed.

The alternative to Charter change is not the May 2007 election. The alternative to a Con-ass is not just a Con-con. Ahead of any electoral exercise, we need to clean up the entire electoral system, restore the professionalism of the Comelec staff at all levels, and plug the loopholes that have made wholesale manipulation of the results of past elections possible. In the long term, we have to begin pushing for an alternative that seriously prioritizes the end of mass poverty, the scourge that has done the most to keep our people from electing worthy leaders. This must be accompanied by a national resolve to stop politicians, notably those with access to public funds, from exploiting the despair of the poor.

The latest antics of the *trapos* in the House may have ignited a collective outrage that will make people see the dangers of a crude parliamentary model. It is hard to predict how this sideshow to the political crisis will end, but I am certain it will finally be laid at the door of GMA, where it all began.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Asean economic community: Which way?

THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS DECLARED IN BALI three years ago that by 2020 the group shall be one Asean Community based on three integration pillars—economy, security and sociocultural. The overwhelming focus of Asean efforts is on the formation of an economic community, which is defined as one regional market characterized by the free flow of goods, capital and services.

The Asean Economic Community will be preceded by the full integration of 11 priority sectors by 2010. In Kuala Lumpur this year, Asean economic ministers declared that the Asean Economic Community could be realized even by 2015.

In the meantime, Asean is rushing the drafting of an Asean Charter for approval in 2007 or 40 years after the group's formation. An eminent persons group (EPG), which included former President Fidel Ramos, conducted national and regional consultations this year. A technical working group shall be translating the EPG's recommendations into a draft Charter.

How realistic is the integration vision given the trajectories of developments in the region? What are the obstacles to integration? What are the alternative approaches to integration?

Put people at center of integration

By Christopher Ng

AFTER FOUR DECADES, THE Asean leaders are now drafting the region's guiding Charter. The leaders are also lining up measures to hasten the integration of the 10-member countries into one Asean community based on three pillars of cooperation—economic, security and socio-cultural. Accordingly, Asean shall be a "community of caring societies," committed to "raising the standard of living of disadvantaged groups."

We have no quarrel with these fine ennobling goals. However, these initiatives collide with certain realities in the ongoing regional integration process, which is uneven and unequal. Like globalization in general, regional integration has benefited largely a few economic players, principally the global transnational corporations and the big home-grown Asean corporations, which can now freely go in and out of the individual member countries or invest in a cross-border fashion. For example, Japanese electronics and auto TNCs now treat the region as one production-distribution market, transforming some countries as specialized assembly centers and others as export platforms for components.

The truth is that many workers and farmers have not felt any positive change in their lives as a result of globalization and regional integration. Many employees in the old smokestack industries such as plastics and textiles or in the sweatshop export industries such as garments and fish canning have been victimized by "labor flexibility" measures like short-term hiring or deployment by "labor-dispatching companies," which help investors squeeze maximum profits from underpaid and unorganized workers.

In export processing zones, workers are generally in their 20s and 30s because they are "redundated" before they reach age 40. Yes, new industries are emerging. However, many are unable to create enough jobs to offset the job losses in old industries which are collapsing. Worse, a never-ending process of downsizing is taking place all over the region due to a never-ending series of mergers-acquisitions-consolidations among the big banks, telecoms and various industries being opened up in the name of liberalization and globalization.

Value-chain production

Asean is also promoting "value-chain production network," which some footloose TNC investors use to relocate plants from country to country in search of cheap labor, thus fueling a "race to the bottom" among capitalists. The obsession for privatization has also put jobs in the public sector on the brink, especially in countries with a large number of state-owned enterprises.

In the countryside, the situation is even more unequal. There are pockets of growth in agrarian Asean countries, principally those hosting TNC investments in export-oriented crop production. But the ordinary small farmers and fisherfolk are vulnerable not only to the vagaries of the weather but also to the monopoly control by the big traders, the TNC distributors of farm inputs and the global producers from the rich subsidizers—the United States, European Union and Australia.

3D jobs

As a result, rural farm incomes have been shrinking, while the army of the landless and jobless rural poor has been swelling, providing the Asean TNC employers with numerous migrant recruits to do the 3D jobs (dirty, dangerous and difficult) in the developed Asean and other Asian countries.

In short, regional integration has excluded many in the Asean. Thus, we are alarmed over the obsession on the part of the Asean officials to focus singularly on economic regional integration via the reduction of agro-industrial tariffs, the deregulation of the service sector and the liberalization of investment regimes without due regard to the development disparities in the region and in the individual Asean countries. This integration formula is no different from the one-size-fits-all liberalization model propounded by the IMF-World Bank group and by the neo-liberal economists in the World Trade Organization.

We, at the trade union and civil society movement, therefore, call on the Asean leaders to address more decisively the labor and social challenges of regional integration. We ask them to consider the proposal for an Asean Social Charter recognizing the basic labor rights of Asean workers, namely, freedom of association and collective bargaining, nondiscrimination at work, prohibition of forced labor and elimination of child labor.

Further, like the existing Asean Business Advisory Council, an Asean Trade Union Advisory Council and an Asean Civil Society Advisory Council should be recognized in order to institutionalize social dialogue and consultation with the region's basic sectors. An Asean community is hollow if the working peoples are not at the center of the regional integration project.

(Ng is the regional secretary of the Union Network International and a member of the Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacy.)

How did Asean begin?

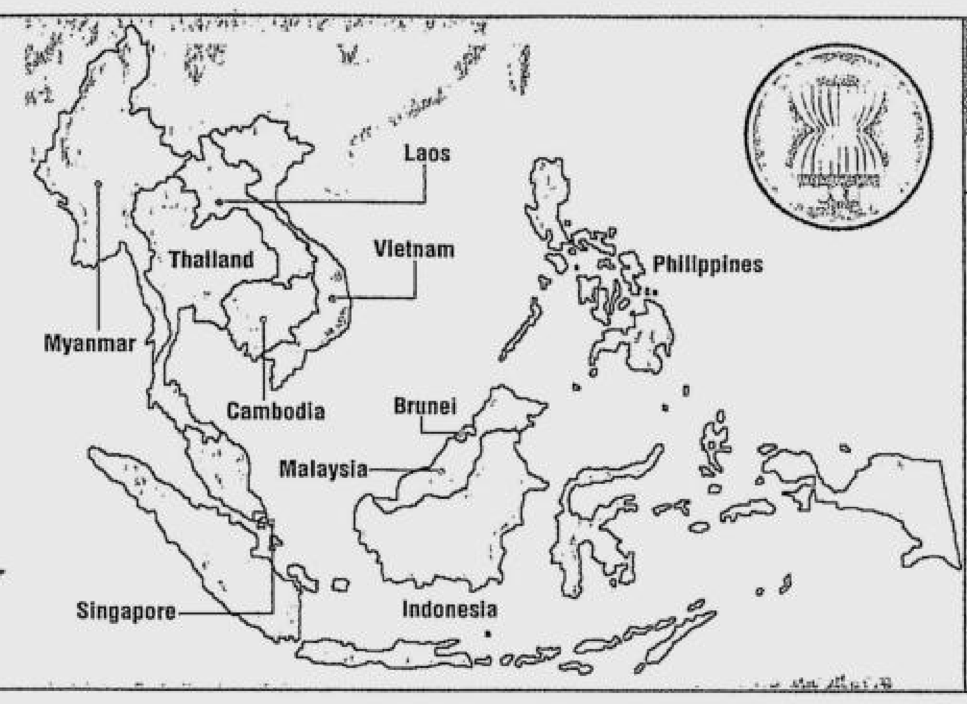
It was formed in August 1967 as a display of solidarity against the communist expansion in Vietnam and the insurgency within the borders of the five original member countries: Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines.

Countries that joined later include Brunei Darussalam (January 1984), Vietnam (July 1995), Laos (July 1997), Myanmar (July 1997) and Cambodia (April 1999).

How big is Asean now?

As of 2005, Asean countries have a total population of over 567 million and a combined gross domestic product of $876 billion. Its total area is 4.5 million square kilometers. ***Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research***

SOURCES: ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, ASEAN PRIMER



Population per country

Country	Population
Brunei	370,100
Cambodia	13.8 million
Indonesia	219.9 million
Laos	6.6 million
Malaysia	26.1 million
Myanmar	54.3 million
Philippines	85.2 million
Singapore	4.35 million
Thailand	64.8 million
Vietnam	83.1 million

PAGE DESIGN AND INQGRAPHIC BY ERNIE SAMBO

Single market and production base

THE ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY shall be the end-goal of economic integration measures as outlined in the Asean Vision 2020. Its goal is to create a stable, prosperous and highly competitive economic region in which there is a free flow of goods, services, investment and a freer flow of capital, equitable economic development and reduced poverty and socioeconomic disparities in year 2020.

The Asean Economic Community shall establish the region as a single market and production base, turning the diversity that characterizes it into opportunities for business complementation and making it a more dynamic and stronger segment of the global supply chain. Asean's strategy shall consist of the integration of Asean and enhancing its economic competitiveness.

In moving toward the Asean Economic Community, Asean has agreed on the following:

- Institute new mechanisms and measures to strengthen the implementation of its existing economic initiatives including the Asean Free Trade Area, Asean Framework Agreement on Services and Asean Investment Area;
- Accelerate regional integration in the following priority sectors by 2010: air travel, agro-based products, automotive [manufacturing], e-commerce, electronics, fisheries, health care, rubber-based products, textiles and apparels, tourism, and wood-based products.
- Facilitate movement of business persons, skilled labor and talents; and
- Strengthen the institutional mechanisms of Asean, including the improvement of the existing Asean Dispute Settlement Mechanism to ensure expeditious and legally binding resolution of any economic disputes.

Launched in 1992, the Asean Free Trade Area is now in place. It aims to promote the region's competitive advantage as a single production unit. The elimination of tariff and nontariff barriers among member countries is expected to promote greater economic efficiency, productivity and competitiveness.

As of Jan. 1, 2005, tariffs on almost 99 percent of the products on the inclusion list of the Asean-6 (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) have been reduced to no more than 5 percent. More than 60 percent of these products have zero tariffs.

The average tariff for Asean-6 has been brought down from more than 12 percent when Afta started to 2 percent today. For the newer member countries, namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam (CLMV), tariffs on about 81 percent of their inclusion list have been brought down to within the 0-5 percent range.

SOURCE: 12TH ASEAN SUMMIT PRIMER

Building a caring and sharing community

By Jose Concepcion, Jr.

I WRITE THIS ARTICLE WITH EMOtion because 39 years after Asean was organized with a treaty by our founding fathers, Asean is still faced with the grim face of poverty. At present, I serve as the chair of the Asean Business Advisory Council (Abac), a body created by the heads of government with each of the 10 heads appointing three members to the advisory council.

After visiting the 10 Asean countries and having very open discussions on what is the problem and what we have to do to move forward, I begged God to inspire me and with His assistance grant me the courage to communicate with our leaders the results of these dialogues and what we have to do to move forward and address the poverty in the region so that all can live in the dignity of a human person.

Our Asean heads of government gave the mandate to Abac at the 7th Asean Summit in 1997 to provide private sector feedback and guidance to accelerate regional integration, and to advance meaningful public and private sector partnership. The mandate of Abac is expanded to realize the East Asia Community following the decision in 2002 to set up the East Asia Community.

Regional integration is now being pursued under a common vision to achieve a "One Caring and Sharing Community" together with China, Japan and Korea.

Today, Asean is facing the forces of globalization and it must therefore integrate with the economies of Japan, China and Korea. We must therefore respond to the following questions raised by the Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia, Hor Namhong, in his address during the East Asian Forum in Siem Riep on Nov. 22.

1. What are the prospects of such community for the people of East Asia?
2. Do we have a strong commitment in achieving this important goal of building a community?
3. How do we narrow the development gap between the members of East Asia with different level of development?
4. How do we promote a sense of belonging and regional identity?

The combined GDP of East Asia is more than $14 trillion compared with the United States' $12.31 trillion and the European Union's $12.18 trillion.

With the commitment to narrow the gap between the members of East Asian Community, a roadmap is necessary to lay down a step-by-step process to realize the objective of full integration of the East Asian Community.

Having been elected chair of the East Asia Business Council, together with China as the immediate past president and with Japan or Korea as incoming chair, the East Asia Community will have a standing committee composed of 13 dynamic leaders that will bring this about.

(Concepcion is the chair of the Asean Business Advisory Council and incoming chair of the East Asia Business Council.)

Group must address insecurities that working people face

By Rosalinda Pineda Ofreneo
and D. L. Doane

CAN ASEAN BE TRUE TO ITS VIsion of "one caring and sharing community" if it is just governments talking to each other across negotiating tables? Obviously, the Asean people must be involved, especially those who comprise the working majority.

Most of the employed in Asean are workers in the informal economy (at least 20 million or 65 percent of total employed in the Philippines in 2004). Among them are home-based workers, vendors, stall sellers, waste recyclers, small transport drivers, construction workers, and others. Many are women who, aside from having to work to earn a pittance to ensure survival, also shoulder the burden of housework, child care and community service.

The informal economy has been growing due to the combined effects of liberalization, deregulation and privatization, which have driven out millions of workers from the formal economy (24 million, according to the International Labor Organization (ILO), in the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis). At the same time, the informal economy serves as the bottom rung of the production ladder, which enables firms to maintain a small core of regular workers and have access to a large pool of cheap casual labor.

In the Asean, therefore, many are seriously affected by various forms of insecurity. Economic insecurity is a constant threat to workers who have in many cases no labor and social protection. Formal workers under flexibilization and contractualization are vulnerable to job loss and abuse. Migrant workers can be easily terminated and deported. Home-based and other informal producers know that job orders can suddenly disappear with no other alternative in sight, or that their savings can easily be wiped out by a sudden death or illness.

To be truly a caring and sharing community, the Asean must address the insecurities that working people experience on a daily basis. It must strive toward the broader vision of human security which is based on freedom from fear and want, whereby basic needs become basic rights, and citizens are empowered to develop their potential and participate in decision-making.

The Asean's stated concern for social protection is a positive step but efforts must be concrete and comprehensive such as Thailand's initiative to have a universal health care system. Likewise, an integrated approach to social protection is a must in order to meet the economic and other human security requirements of the working peoples—e.g., sustainable jobs, farms and livelihood; access to affordable health care, education and housing; safe community and liveable environment; guarantees on civil and political rights, including personal protection related to domestic violence. Without an integrated approach, social protection policies, narrowly defined, simply cannot work for informal workers who generally are not even able to contribute to their own social security.

In this context, we support the campaign for decent work based on the ILO Conventions on freedom of association, social protection, nondiscrimination at work, and the elimination of forced and child labor. We also urge the immediate ratification by the Asean-member countries of the ILO Convention on Home Work (ILC 177). In the Asean, there are millions of homeworkers (at least six million in the Philippines), most of whom are women who are multi-burdened and subjected to gender-based discrimination.

The human security deficits in the Asean have also emboldened informal workers to be more active in the campaign for fair trade policies. Fair trade means changes in macroeconomic policies to give an even chance for local producers to have a rightful share of the domestic market, e.g., campaign for a recalibration of tariffs and a stop to smuggling and dumping of cheap foreign products.

Fair trade means enhancing domestic economic sustainability through the use of locally available resources, production catering to basic community needs, and respect for the environment. Fair trade also means ensuring workers' rights to just remuneration, job security, social protection and safe working conditions. Finally, fair trade means promoting gender equity through recognition of women's work, greater equality in the division of labor, and stronger participation of women in decision-making.

In the face of the exclusionary outcomes of economic liberalization, we call for openness and transparency in the Asean processes. The interests of women and working people, especially those in the informal economy, need to be articulated, recognized and carried forward. A genuine Asean community striving for human security is anchored on fair and balanced participation in the development processes as well as on the equitable distribution of opportunities, resources and benefits.

(Ofreneo is the regional coordinator of Homenet Southeast Asia [HSA] while Doane is a research consultant of HSA and of FairTrade Alliance.)

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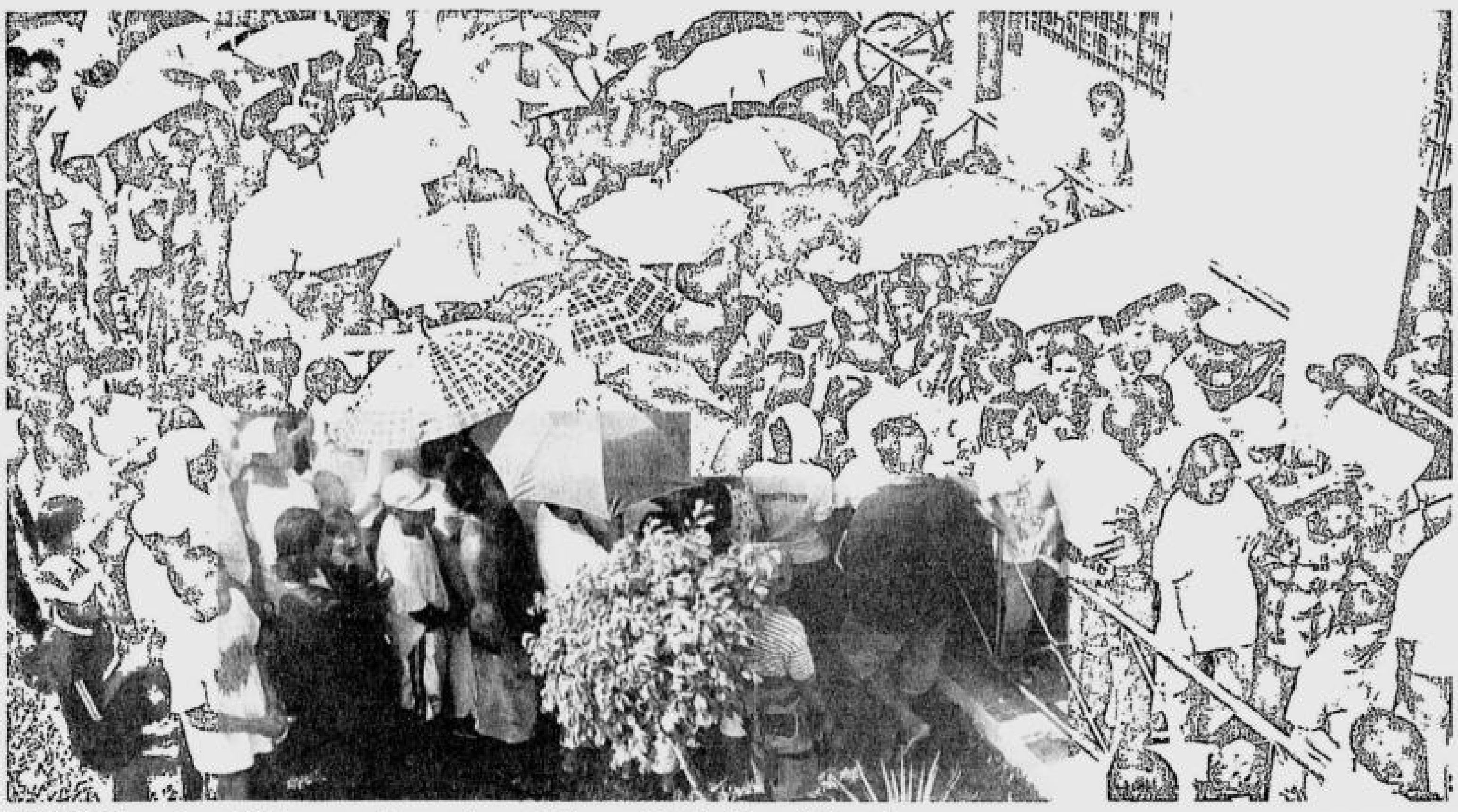
500 soldiers secure retrieval areas in Albay



TYPHOON survivors in Catanauan, Quezon, troop to the municipal hall for relief goods. DELFIN MALLARI JR./INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

CAMP ELIAS ANGELES, PILI, CAMARINES SUR—Some 500 soldiers of the Philippine Army, Air Force and Navy are continuously securing the areas affected by mudslide in Albay to protect the workers doing retrieval operation, according to Brig. Gen. Arnulfo Ylanan, assistant commander of the 9th Infantry Division.

Ylanan yesterday said Army soldiers were tasked to penetrate areas still not reached by rescue and retrieval operation workers by walking on foot over damaged roads.

Army soldiers are doing multiple tasks such as providing security, medical action, relief operation to being part of the retrieval operations forces, added Ylanan.

On Friday, Army doctors and medical professionals conducted a medical mission in three villages of Sto. Domingo, Albay, while Army engineers cleared roads in Padang, Legazpi City and Camalig, Albay, he reported.

Yesterday, K9 dogs were flown in from Camp Aguinaldo in Manila to help in the retrieval operations in areas where mudslides induced by volcanic debris from the slopes of Mayon volcano, were believed to have buried hundreds of bodies.

Ylanan said the K9 dogs were expected to help soldiers locate those trapped under the volcanic debris.

He said, however, that the chances of finding survivors are very dim as the days dragged on and explained that a person could only survive three days at the most underneath the rubbles.

Ylanan said Task Force Tiwasay will continue with its retrieval operations even as relief and rehabilitation operations were on-going.

In a mobile phone interview, Col. Roberto Morales, Task Force Tiwasay's commanding officer, said they have retrieved 50 more bodies in Padang, Legazpi City yesterday morning and that they will proceed on foot to the nearby town of Sto. Domingo.

Morales said they have asked for lime to ward off the stench of decomposing bodies as the soldiers carry the dead bodies individually to waiting trucks for delivery to funeral homes in Legazpi City.

Southern Luzon Command Chief Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano said the disaster and relief units in the areas hit hard by Typhoon "Reming" will continue with their task until the situation normalized.

Yano said that in times of disaster these units, which are "built-in" in every Army command, are automatically activated. *Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Transco steps up power restoration in Bicol

NAGA CITY—WITH 45 PERCENT of power restored in Camarines Norte, the province least battered by supertyphoons "Reming" and "Milenyo," the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) is rushing up the installation of emergency towers and closely coordinating with power cooperatives so there would be light in Bicol on Christmas.

Except for Camarines Norte and Naga City, the entire Bicol peninsula, where the two supertyphoons knocked down power lines and destroyed sub-station facilities, was still plunged in darkness last week.

Guillermo Redoblado, vice president for south Luzon and chair of Transco's Task Force Reming, however, assured the power cooperatives in mainland Bicol that the town and city centers in Albay, Camarines Sur and Sorsogon would be reconnected on Christmas Day.

In a meeting on Wednesday, Redoblado told representatives of seven power cooperatives that more than 100 linemen, who were mobilized from Northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, have been divided into 22 groups and were working round-the-clock to beat the Christmas Day target.

He said Transco devised temporary steel poles that bypassed power supply from the Luzon grid through the Gumaca connection, going to Labo, Camarines Norte to Naga City, while the power generation facilities in Tiwi and Bacman were still down.

Showing the power co-op's representatives a diagram, he said the Tayabas, Quezon connection from the Luzon grid would also connect Daraga, Albay, going to Sorsogon.

The power line system, comprising 12 power line segments that run through Albay, Camarines Sur and Sorsogon, was cut when 116 steel towers and 887 wooden poles were ripped off from the ground when supertyphoon Reming hit Bicol on Nov. 30.

In consultation with the managers of seven power co-ops in Bicol that included the Camarines Sur Electric Cooperative (Casureco) I,II,III and IV; Albay Electric Cooperative (Aleco); and Sorsogon Electric Cooperative (Soreco) I and II, Redoblado set the earliest possible reconnection in the three provinces.

Redoblado clarified that the reconnection of the power supply from the Transco involved only the so-called backbone lines as follows: Naga-Naga (Casureco II) on Dec. 7; Iriga-Polangui-Ligao (Aleco), Naga-Pili (Casureco II) and Pili-Iriga (Casureco III) on Dec. 8; Daraga-Sorsogon (Soreco I and II) and Daraga-Legazpi (Aleco) on Dec. 16.

The managers and Transco also agreed that the Naga-Libmanan (Casureco I) and Pili-Tigaon (Casureco IV) will be reconnected on Dec. 18.

On Dec. 21, the Transco targets to connect the power lines Tiwi-Malinao (Aleco), Naga-Calabanga (Casureco II) and Barit-Iriga (Casureco IV) while on Dec. 24, the power line Naga-Tinambac would also receive its power reconnection.

Redoblado said the reconnection of power down to the households would depend on the power co-ops providing services in particular areas of the three provinces.

"It would depend on the degree and extent of destruction on the power lines and sub-station facilities. The least the damage, the earlier it is possible to reconnect power supply," he explained.

During a meeting on Wednesday, the managers of the power co-ops identified the areas where the power supply could only be restored after Christmas.

In Albay, the hardest hit province, restoration of power supply in the towns of Sto. Domingo, Guinobatan, Camalig, Manito, Bacacay and Pio Duran are expected after Christmas to the first months of 2007.

In Camarines Sur, the towns of Pamplona, Pasacao, Cabusao, Libmanan (town center), San Fernando, Caramoan and Garchitorena are expected to be reconnected after Christmas. *Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Int'l aid agency delivers water to typhoon victims

THE INTERNATIONAL HUMANItarian agency, Oxfam, has started its response to the devastation caused by Typhoon "Reming" with five trucks carrying a total of 189,000 liters of drinking water making its way to the affected areas on Friday.

"At the onset of an emergency such as the one caused by the two supertyphoons in Bicol, people are often cut off from clean water sources and food. Providing these services as quickly as possible helps prevent sickness such as diarrhea," Josephine Hutton, Oxfam Typhoon Response Manager, said in a press release sent to the INQUIRER.

Oxfam will also go into emergency repairs of water and sanitation infrastructure, hygiene promotion and supplies such as jerry cans, soap, washing detergent and sanitary napkins, and blankets to the most vulnerable communities.

"We have already received information of diarrhea outbreak, so we have to act quickly to prevent further stress to the communities. Oxfam will initially respond to the worst hit province of Albay and will expand its programs to other areas not getting the necessary assistance," Hutton said.

Oxfam will also engage in emergency food and livelihood works. It has earmarked a total aid budget of approximately $1.4 million for the next six months of humanitarian response in Bicol.

"We launch an emergency response whenever lives, health, and livelihoods are threatened by 'natural' disasters. In any emergency, our primary goal is to reduce the incidence of death and disease," said Hutton.

Oxfam has estimated over 570 people dead, 746 missing, and at least 80,000 houses to have been completely destroyed because of Typhoon Reming. On a conservative estimate, the last three supertyphoons have affected some 1.7 million people of which an estimated 84,500 people are living in 273 evacuation centers.

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Group serves free meals for park dwellers

FNB MEMBERS distribute food to park dwellers. JEFFREY TUPAS

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Davao City

TEN-YEAR-OLD MIKAY PANILAG IS PLAYING with her friends at the Rizal Park here on a Saturday afternoon but her almond-shaped eyes would comb the crowd from time to time.

Mikay comes to the park with her mother, who sells cigarettes.

Mikay is obviously anticipating the arrival of a group of young men and women, who in their simple act of activism, provide some degree of happiness to the children.

Mikay and the other children do not wait too long.

As soon as they see them, the children and even some elderly who are spending time in the park, break into a chant-like chorus "*Pagkaon dili bomba...pagkaon dili bomba...* (Food not bombs... food not bombs)."

Mikay has lost count of the times that she gets to receive free meal from Food Not Bombs (FNB), a community of activists fighting for equal distribution of food as a basic right of every individual.

Always a crowd drawer, the FNB, serves free all-vegan food, which they consider healthy and nonviolent as compared to meat and fish-based meal.

"I am really thankful because they are giving us food. It's just rice and vegetables but it eases my hunger," Mikay said.

In June 2002, FNB started to distribute free meals among the dwellers of Rizal Park.

Tattered pants

FNB members can be identified from a sea of strangers with their tattered pants, black shirts, chains, piercings, and elaborate tattoos.

To people who see them for the first time, the group could be mistaken for rebellious youths.

With members mostly from the punk community in Davao City, FNB goes around the Bangkerohan Public Market to solicit rice, vegetables and fruits from market vendors, items that are oftentimes leftovers and thrown to the waste bins.

They then cook what they have collected and feed them to the Rizal Park dwellers.

"Feeding the hungry can be done without us spending money, just time and the dedication to lessen the problem of hunger, especially among the youth. We have been doing this through the help of countless individuals, market vendors, who willingly spared us what they have," Benjamin Gabuni said, an FNB member, said.

Movement

Started as an antinuclear movement, FNB was founded at the Cambridge University in Massachusetts in 1980.

The movement, which has been working extensively to end poverty and hunger, oppose the globalization of the economy and the destruction of the environment, among others, is reportedly one of the fast-growing movements all over the world as it is attractive among punk communities and activists.

FNB has a growing following in Asia, the United States, Canada, Australia, Middle East, Africa and the Latin American countries.

In its website (www.foodnotbombs.net), the global movement boasts of hundreds of autonomous chapters sharing food to the foodless and protesting the government's misplaced allocation of funds for wars and other programs instead of putting huge budget for food.

Gabuni said observing a horizontally structured organization, FNB does not have formal leaders. Every member, he said is involved in decision-making.

Surplus

Gabuni and the other members painstakingly solicit and collect surplus food and process them into fresh meals for people who seldom have food.

But despite their work, FNB members have been subjected to harassment by the authorities.

In San Francisco, California for example, at least a thousand arrests have been made on FNB members.

Members of the movement in the US have also been reportedly put under investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other intelligence agencies.

In this city, Gabuni said their members also experience similar harassment.

At least two of their members, who have since been known as members of the Punk 11, were arrested and tortured in Sagada. Until now, a number of them still are languishing in their detention cells.

Working closely with groups such as Kinaiyahan Unahon (Earth First), FNB is often seen in environmental demonstrations as they press their advocacy, including environmental protection and preservation.

"We encourage others to look into the issue of poverty and hunger as a problem so simple that can be explained and solved with not much technicality and politics," Dindo, another FNB member here, said.

Davao solons debate proper singing of national anthem

By Germelina A. Lacorte
Davao City

THE WAY THE NAtional anthem was sung at the opening of Manny Pacquiao's final fight against Mexican boxing champion Eric Morales has momentarily created a fracas at the Davao City Council.

Two days after Pacquiao's win at the Thomas and Mack's stadium in Las Vegas, city councilors, who were previously jumping with joy over his victory, raised a howl over the way Sarah Geronimo sang the national anthem during the opening of the fight.

To the amusement, and perhaps, chagrin of most people attending the regular council session, the councilors spent about an hour discussing the right tempo of the song and whether or not Geronimo or any other artists should be allowed to tamper with it.

"That song is supposed to be vibrant, full of life," said an indignant Nilo Abellera, who even filed a resolution reminding the people of Davao of the national song's official version.

"But the way that she sung it was very slow," he complained.

One councilor sang a lullaby while another broke into laughter as the serious, teary eyed Abellera discussed what he called the bastardization of the national song.

"The singer, obviously unaware of the law, sang it in a subdued, classical and *kundiman*-like interpretation," he said in the proposed resolution, co-authored by Susabel Reta.

He described the original version as a marching song, with a highly patriotic beat.

Other councilors argued that Geronimo's rendition was only to set the mood for the game, which somehow matched Pacquiao's prayerful mood before the fight.

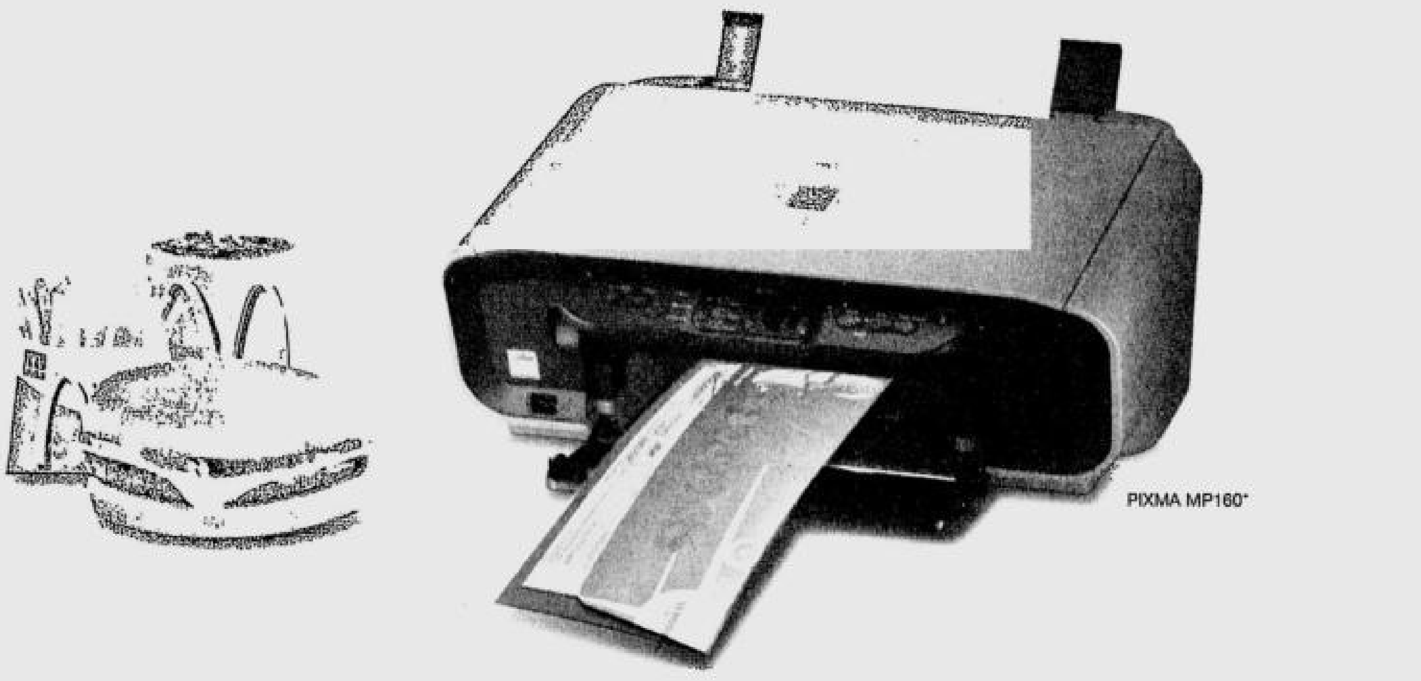
But Abellera cited Republic Act No. 8491, also known as the Flag and Heraldic Code.

He said the law was passed in response to the trend among artists in the mid-90s to experiment with various tempos and renditions of the national anthem.

Abellera said he felt "weak for a while" when he listened to Geronimo's rendition of the national anthem but eventually recovered as he watched Pacquiao fight.

"Anybody who represents the Philippines in such a large crowd and in an event that is broadcast worldwide should be faithful to the original and official rendition of the song," he later told the INQUIRER.

He said he was concerned that some people, especially schoolchildren, might follow Geronimo's example.



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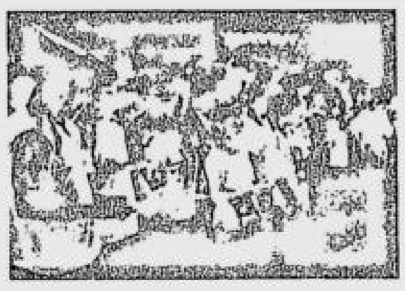
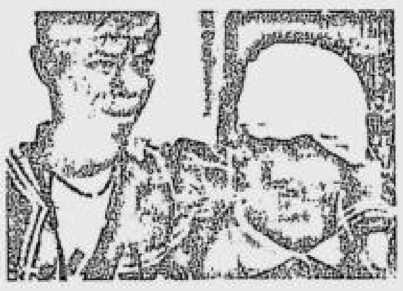
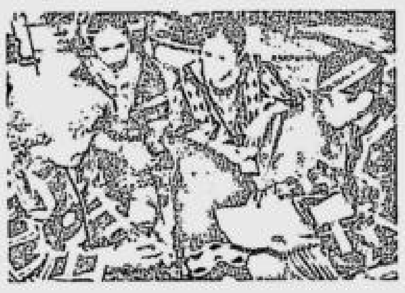
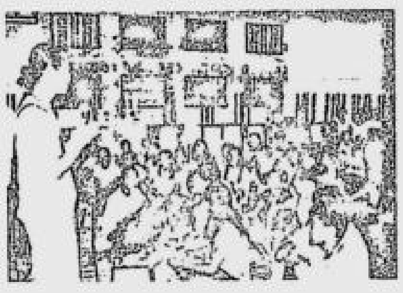
From October 19 to 23, more than 300 young individuals from 38 Indigenous Peoples (IPs) tribes in the Philippines gathered together for a five-day youth congress called Kalindogan 2006. The event allowed them to explore their unique role in responding to the realities that challenge the basic rights of the IPs in the country. It was also an occasion for them to discover how they as young people can contribute to the IP's efforts towards self-determination.

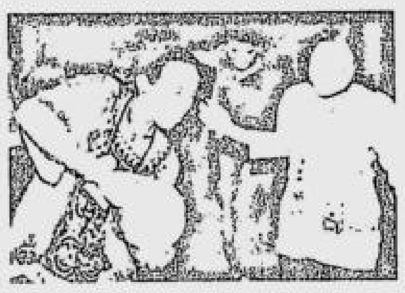
What follows is the declaration that the participants formulated as their way of expressing their common desire for the realization of peace, justice, and development among the IPs.

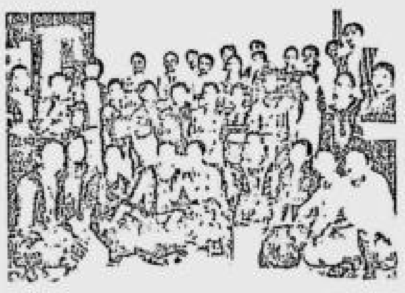












We, the delegates to the Kalindogan 2006, a gathering of young Indigenous Peoples (IPs) from 38 tribes in Mindanao and other provinces in the Philippines, held at the PAMULAAN Center for Indigenous Peoples Education, in our commitment and desire to help in the development of our communities, wish to make the following declaration:

> The Indigenous Peoples of Mindanao continue to experience prejudice and injustice, human rights abuses, and exploitation that hinder the development of ourselves and our communities. Furthermore, the IPs continue to be victimized by the wanton destruction of our country's natural resources, the prejudicial laws of the Philippine government, and the recurring conflicts caused by the misunderstanding among various groups.

We, the young Indigenous Peoples of Mindanao, challenge our tribal communities as well as our leaders to:

- establish a unified voice that will represent our common tribe;
- respect and promote our culture;
- face the call of protecting our ancestral lands even at the cost of one's life;
- provide avenues for the youth to participate in tribal discussions and in the work of developing our communities; and
- encourage with greater fervor other IPs to return to traditional ways of farming as their primary means of livelihood and in order to revitalize the richness of the land.

We also challenge the government to:

- observe the right process in applying the Free and Prior Informed Consent(FPIC) as just means in making decisions;
- issue a moratorium on the releasing of applications for the operations of mining and mono-cropping plantations while discussions are ongoing as to how these will affect Ancestral Lands;
- establish, uphold, and propagate an educational system that is adapted to the needs and context of our own culture;
- align all related and conflicting laws such that they support and complement the provisions of RA 8371 (IPRA Law); and
- establish a Department of Indigenous Peoples.

We likewise challenge our fellow young IPs to:

- participate in issues that affect our tribe; and
- stand up for our rights, culture and the aspirations of our communities.

We the delegates are committed to:

- establish core groups in our communities that will work to encourage greater involvement from other young IPs; and
- lead efforts that promote order in our tribe.

We will endeavor to become a united voice that will represent our communities in various branches of government, as well as in national and local movements.

-- Signed by the Youth of the Indigenous Peoples --

October 23, 2006
PAMULAAN Center for Indigenous Peoples Education
University of Southern Philippines, Davao City

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Dumaguete could lose funds for port terminal

DUMAGUETE CITY—THE CITY government here is in danger of losing the P100 million funding for its passenger port terminal due to government red tape that has been delaying its implementation.

The project, already stalled for about four years, was supposed to be implemented this year but hit another snag because the Philippine Ports Authority could not bid it out due to design problems.

Mayor Agustin Perdices said if the project bidding does not push through this month, the more than P100 million funding for the facility would revert back to the national coffers.

Under the law, funding for a project that did not push through will be returned to the national government at the end of the year, Perdices explained.

The effort to put up a modern port facility in Dumaguete began in the late 1990s but it was strongly opposed by Silliman University, one of the country's oldest and the city's premier educational institution, because the original designed would adversely affect the highly diverse marine environment of the city's waters.

City Administrator Dominador Dumalag said significant revisions were done on the project's design and the city government began to vigorously push for its implementation in 2002 after it finally got the nod of Silliman.

In 2004, President Macapagal-Arroyo led the groundbreaking ceremony for the project but the PPA later informed city officials that it could not push through because the proposed site was still being litigated.

The plan was again modified with the help of the city's United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) chapter that volunteered its services for free.

Dumalag said the design has been revised four times and this has been "very frustrating" especially to the city government and to architects Bobby Doray and Din Sinco who led the drafting of the architectural design of the terminal.

Dumalag said the PPA-Dumaguete has been trying to push the project off the ground but the design will have to be revised one more time to bring down the cost to below P100 million.

Dumalag said that under PPA rules, projects amounting to P100 million and above would have to be deliberated and approved by the PPA board, which would further delay its implementation.

Dumalag said Dumaguete Port Manager Noemi Calderon was doing her best to speed up the process and this was keeping alive the city official's hope that the bidding for the port terminal could still be accomplished before the New Year. *Romy G. Amarado, Inquirer Visayas*

Surigao road bid probed

SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN DEL Sur—The Ombudsman is investigating the alleged irregularity in the bidding of the billion-peso road concreting project in Surigao del Sur, a ranking public works official said.

The investigation has also prompted the Department of Public Works and Highways to suspend the project, which is seen as important to boost the economic development of the province.

But Romeo Momo, public works director for Caraga, clarified that the questionable bidding process was done at the DPWH central office in Manila and not at the regional office in Butuan City.

The project, which costs P1.17 billion, involves the improvement of the 73-km Marihatag-Barobo and Tagbina-Hinatuan-Bislig section of the Surigao-Davao Coastal Road.

The Surigao-Davao Coastal Road Project is a World Bank-assisted project funded by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Manipulation

Information reaching the Ombudsman shows that local and foreign companies have manipulated the bidding process.

Despite the suspension, Moro said they were optimistic that the project could still be implemented next year.

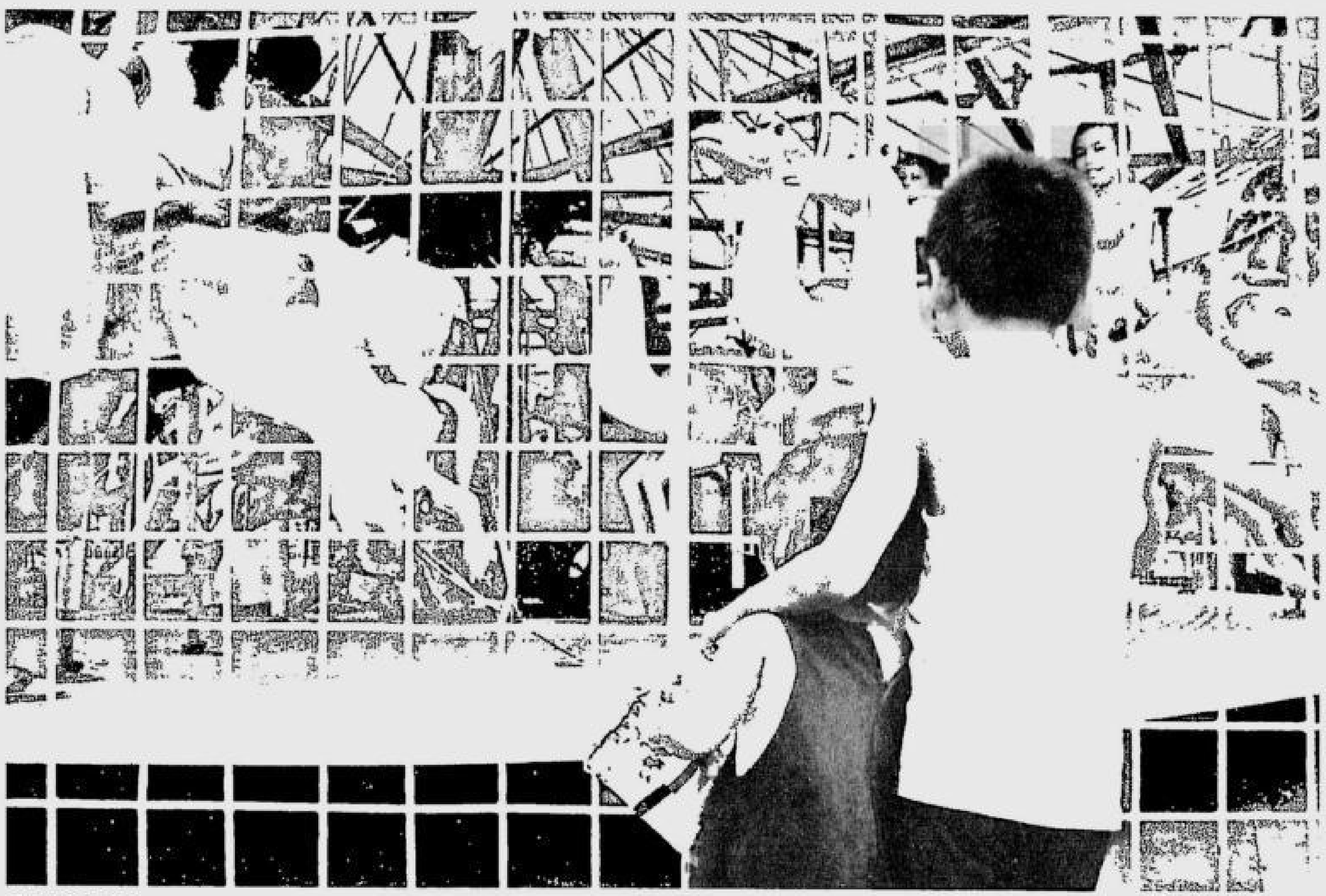
Once it starts, it could be completed by 2010, he said.

The project has been anticipated by residents of Surigao del Sur, who have been suffering from the province's bad road condition.

The national highway in Surigao del Sur is the only road section in Caraga that has not been concreted.

The Butuan City to San Francisco, Agusan del Sur stretch of the highway was already finished while the San Francisco-Trento section was expected to be completed by November next year.

Chris V. Panganiban, Inquirer Mindanao



CAROUSEL

DENNIS JAY SANTOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Big brother has to hold still his little sister, who is anxious to get a ride on a carousel, set up by the Davao City government free of charge to the public as a way of giving joy to the poor.

Batangas pigs declared free from foot and mouth disease

BATANGAS CITY—AFTER 12 years, Batangas hogs have been declared free of foot and mouth disease (FMD), said a report made by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)-created National Foot and Mouth Disease Task Force during an agricultural summit here on Wednesday.

The province, which supplies 50 to 60 percent of Metro Manila's pork, counted 190 FMD cases in a reported outbreak from 1995-2005, that affected 25 towns and the cities of Batangas, Lipa and Tanauan.

The BAI declaration came after the agency found out that no single FMD case has occurred in the province since January last year.

BAI assistant director Dr. Vic Atienza said their move is a way of "removing the trade barrier or economic disease in the country's hog exports."

At the height of the outbreak, provincial veterinarian Dr. Rodrigo Bautista said Batangas hog traders were unable to export their pigs to Northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

"Being FMD-free is such a great blessing. There would be no more restrictions in animal transport, living or dead," Bautista added.

FMD is a highly contagious and sometimes fatal viral infection among cattle and pigs. Infection is usually transmitted through direct contact with infected animals or with contaminated pens or vehicles used to transport livestock.

The disease is characterized by high fever that declines rapidly after two or three days, blisters inside the mouth that lead to excessive secretion of stringy or foamy saliva, and blisters on the feet that may rupture and cause lameness.

The disease is widespread throughout the world except parts of South and Central America, United States, Australia, Canada and rest of Europe.

Bautista said the number of hog raisers in the country has gone up over the years, which made it difficult for the provincial veterinary office to monitor animal movement within its area of responsibility.

Slaughter houses were not strict in terms of accepting pigs from traders which may have caused the FMD spread in Batangas hog farms, he said.

To prevent the disease spread, the PVO enforced biosecurity measures, which include a closure order and quarantine of infected farms, burning of infected farm stocks, massive vaccination of hogs located three kilometers away from affected farms and establishment animal checkpoints on highway roads.

FMD cases reportedly went down from 32 to this year's zero, said the Batangas Task Force Foot and Mouth Disease.

Felix Tolentino, president of the Batangas Animal Traders and Handlers Association, hailed BAI's move, saying the disease alone caused a decrease in pork prices at P55 per kilo, which resulted in massive loss of revenues among hog raisers and traders alike.

He also expects their market share to increase since buyers from other FMD-free regions would no longer be hesitant to buy pork from Batangas.

By Dec. 18, Atienza said the BAI expects to declare Batangas an FMD protected area along with Laguna, Nueva Ecija and National Capital Region.

Bautista said it took 20 years before the disease, which was controlled in 1975, returned to the Philippines in 1995. *Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Ex-columnist of Ecija paper shot dead

By Anselmo Roque
Inquirer Central Luzon

CABANATUAN CITY—A FORMER newspaper columnist here was shot and killed by two men while he was visiting his farm in Barangay Sta. Arcadia on Thursday.

Police said Ponciano Grande, 53, died instantly from five bullet wounds.

Grande, a former director of the Nueva Ecija Press Club, used to write a column for the local weeklies "The Recorder" and "Nueva Ecija Times."

His colleagues said Grande stopped writing columns in 2002 and had since been managing the family's farm.

Reports said Grande's wife, Annie Liwag-Grande, was several meters from him when the suspects attacked.

Liwag-Grande, who hosts a variety show in a local radio station, told police that the suspects appeared to be in their teens.

She said she left her husband in front of their jeepney along a road in Sitio Romantico as she would visit some neighbors there. A few minutes later, she heard gunshots and discovered that her husband was shot.

Wife

She said the suspects, who were armed with a .45 cal. pistol, chased her but they did not harm her.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines said in an alert sent to its members that Grande was the 11th journalist killed this year.

Since 1986, 83 journalists have been killed in the Philippines and most of the cases remained unsolved to this day.

Forty one of the killings took place during the Arroyo administration.

The Belgium-based International Federation of Journalists said the Philippines is the second most dangerous places in the world for journalists.

Aside from the killings, Filipino journalists face harassment and libel cases.

Typhoon-struck businesses to get loan reprieve

LEGAZPI CITY—THE NATIONAL government would extend help to businesses, which suffered damages and losses in the wake of Supertyphoon "Reming," through a loan reprieve program by the Banko Sentral.

This was disclosed by Rep. Joey Salceda (3rd district, Albay) over a local radio station here.

He said Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Amado Tetangco has agreed to recommend to the Monetary Board "for all banks, including commercial and rural banks, to grant a rediscounting window to all Bicol-based businesses hit by the recent typhoon."

The recommendation was made on Monday, a day before President Macapagal-Arroyo visited Camarines Sur and Albay, two provinces which suffered the most in terms of casualties and damage to property, he said.

Salceda said this is as "good as approved by the Monetary Board."

Salceda, who also chairs the House committee on budget and appropriation, added that under the 5-year rediscount program, the Central Bank will assume loans at a 4.2-percent discount rate, or based on the prevailing 91-day Treasury Bill rate.

Businesses here suffered heavy losses as many shops and establishments, warehouses and factories were flooded and many businessmen have to contend with damaged or useless inventory.

The biggest mall in the region, the Gaisano-owned Pacific Mall here only opened yesterday, after the typhoon blew off parts of its roof.

Liberty Commercial Center, the oldest department store chain and mall, with branches in Legazpi and Tabaco City, was also heavily flooded, but in less than a week after Reming, it reopened for business.

Also seriously affected were rice mills, coconut plantations, copra mills and other agri-based businesses which were flooded, struck by heavy winds and covered by mudflow from Mayon volcano.

The loan reprieve for businesses follow the announcement on Tuesday by the President of a 6-month installment deferral package or "moratorium without penalties" for client-members here of the Social Security System, Pag-Ibig and the Government Service Insurance System.

At least 109,000 houses were totally damaged in the Bicol region while 140,000 were partially damaged.

He said that all these measures are efforts by the national government to "normalize the economy in Bicol as soon as possible." *Delma L. Peyra, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

JOHN Atun cleans dirty mini components he retrieved from his house buried in mud after Typhoon "Reming" hit Guinobatan, Albay.

NINO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

ROUNDUP

3 killed in Batangas mishap

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Three people were killed, including two septuagenarians, while two others were seriously hurt when a car driven by a drunken man rammed a group of pedestrians in Tanauan City on Thursday night. Batangas police director Senior Supt. Edmund Zaide identified the fatalities as Maria Nido, 75, Hilariona Fabro, 68, and her husband Rodolfo Fabro, 70. Injured were Linda Nido, 45, and driver Roderick Legasca, 50. Zaide said the victims were walking beside a road in Barangay Bilog-bilog on their way home at around 9 p.m. when they were hit by the Honda Civic (WME 531) driven by Legasca. Nido and Hilariona died on the spot while Rodolfo expired while being treated at the CP Reyes General Hospital. Zaide said their initial investigation showed that Legasca had just come from a gathering of a relative and was too drunk to drive. He said Nido and Legasca remained in critical condition at the said hospital.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

500 DENR employees to lose jobs

DAVAO CITY—More than 500 personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Southern Mindanao will be affected by the government's streamlining program, a ranking official said. Engr. Manny Isip, regional technical director of the DENR's Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB), that 900 employees have signified their intention to avail of benefits under the program. "This mandate came from the executive department that calls for the streamlining of all agencies because most have a very heavy structure. The government has big outlay for personnel services," he said. Isip said among those affected by the rationalization program were the positions for regional technical directors. He said after the implementation of the program, only two technical directors in the region would be retained.

Rizalene P. Acac, Inquirer Mindanao

OFW loses P2M to robbers

DAGUPAN CITY—An overseas Filipino worker lost some P2.1 million in cash and valuables after robbers ransacked her house in Bani town on Friday. Elena Camba, 53, and her maid, Milagring Udeni, 41, were watching television in her house in Barangay Banog Norte when five armed men barged in, police said. Camba, who works abroad as a nurse, said she and her maid were taken to a room where their hands and feet were tied. Their mouths were also sealed with a packaging tape. Camba said she lost P400,000, $10,000, assorted pieces of jewelry worth P1 million, seven wristwatches worth P100,000, two digital cameras worth P70,000 and three cellular phones worth P30,000.

Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

12 facts about Charter Reform that *you* need to know

1 **The 1987 Constitution authorizes *three-fourths of all the Members of Congress* either to amend *or* to revise it.**

Section 1, Article 17, provides *clearly* that amendments to, or revision of, the Constitution may be "proposed by the Congress upon a vote of three-fourths of all its Members."

The provision does *not* say "three-fourths of the Senate." Nor does it say "three-fourths of the House of Representatives." It says *specifically* "three-fourths of all the Members of Congress." And since there are 23 Senators and 232 Congressmen, three-fourths of Congress means *195 votes.*

This provision is *explicit.* It leaves *no* room for confusion or doubt.

2 **Even then, Congress only proposes. As always, the Filipino people will have the final say—by expressing their sovereign will through the ballot.**

After Congress has done its work, the electorate itself will decide whether or not to accept the amendments their lawmakers propose—in a plebiscite that must be called *within* 60 days after Congress has approved these amendments.

3 **It is *not* true that the House of Representatives *alone* will propose amendments to the Constitution.**

Resolution No. 197, approved overwhelmingly by the House in a session on December 7,2006, calls on *"All Members of Congress* to Propose Amendments to, or Revision of, the Constitution pursuant to Sec. 1, Art. XVII of the Constitution and for Other Purposes."

All of the 23 senators and the 232 congressmen have been notified *formally* of the convening of the Assembly—which will be held at the Plenary Hall of the House of Representatives, Batasan Complex, Quezon City, beginning at 10 o'clock in the morning of 12 December 2006.

4 **The Assembly shall meet until it decides on the specific amendments or revisions of the Constitution that have been proposed for ratification by the people.**

The key amendment proposed is a structural *shift* from the presidential to a unicameral parliamentary system that will simplify government.

The American presidential system—with its elaborate checks and balances, transplanted bodily to our *factionalized* political system—has all too often divided government and produced administrative *gridlock.*

This is why we propose installing in its place a parliamentary government—on the model of successful political systems in Europe, Australia and New Zealand, and in Asia's most prosperous states: Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand.

5 **Under our bicameral Legislature, government is like a business corporation having two *separate* boards of directors. The unavoidable end-result is the corporation's collapse—as conflicting policies and rival ambitions prevent it from growing its stockholders' capital.**

In the Philippine State, bicameralism has delayed the passage of vital laws, generated corruption, and made policymaking the product of the least common denominator of agreement among the ruling factions. What is worse, our political climate of weakness and instability has encouraged military adventurism. The result has been a series of coup attempts—the most recent being the abortive coup of February 2006.

6 **It's *not* true that only the Senate would be abolished in the proposed shift to a parliamentary government.**

Both the Senate and the House of Representatives—the whole of Congress as it is constituted—would be dissolved. Under the unicameral parliamentary system being proposed, a one-chamber Assembly (Parliament), would be created—producing more efficient, more accountable and much less expensive government.

7 **Maintaining a bicameral legislature has been a very expensive luxury that the nation can no longer afford.**

Shifting to a unicameral parliamentary system would effectively cut in half the more than P8 billion that make up the two-chamber Congress' yearly operating budget—and free billions of pesos for development.

8 **These huge savings would go a long way toward financing our country's battle against mass poverty.**

These freed funds could augment development funds for building vital infrastructure such as roads, bridges, school buildings, hospitals, water facilities, irrigation, food production and rural electrification. They could also fund microfinance opportunities for the urban and rural poor.

Heightened public investment will certainly create hundreds of thousands of jobs and livelihood opportunities.

9 **Opinion surveys have consistently shown that, increasingly, Filipinos look to Constitutional reform as the nation's last hope of attaining political stability and of raising the economy's competitiveness in global markets.**

A clear national consensus for amending the 1987 Constitution has formed. *Pulse Asia*, for instance, notes that the number of those opposed to Charter change has been declining. Between October 2005 and March 2006, the percentage of those opposed dropped significantly in income class ABC (minus 18%) and in Metro Manila (minus 19%).

10 **The amendments being proposed through an act of Congress are *also* overwhelmingly supported by our country's grassroots leaders.**

Governors, City and Municipal Mayors, Vice Mayors, Councilors and Provincial Board Members who lead the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) count a total 1.7 million members—including local officials and *barangay* chairmen, councilmen, *tanod* and *barangay* health workers. ULAP is the moving spirit of this popular political movement

The League of Provinces led by Bohol Governor Erico Aumentado, the League of Cities led by Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Trenas and the League of Municipalities led by Binalonan (Pangasinan) Mayor Ramon Guico, have also declared their support.

11 **It is *not* true that the amendments have *not* been thoroughly discussed, debated, and scrutinized by the Filipino people.**

A low-key campaign for Charter change has been waged for more than 15 years by reformists from the political, economic, labor, financial and professional sectors.

The People's Initiative launched by ULAP and Sigaw ng Bayan set off a nationwide debate amplified by radio, television and newspaper reports and commentaries. The debate raised qualitatively ordinary people's awareness about our urgent need to reform the political system.

12 **We must send out a message of hope, particularly to our young people.**

Over these next 10 years, our country must complete its modernization—or forever remain a *backwater* of East Asia. Whether our country is to have a new beginning—or stay in the political rut in which it has been trapped this half-century—this crucial question for our country is our hands.

In its largest sense, Charter change is really an effort to modernize our country's politics, This is why it is meeting strenuous opposition from the forces of the *status quo*—from those who benefit from things as they are.

The struggle is hard, but we cannot slacken. For we must give back to our youths their future. We must restore to them the hope that tomorrow will be better, and that hope is to be found—not among some alien people—but here at home, in the land of their forefathers.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Sunday SPORTS

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15TH ASIAN GAMES DOHA 2006

YOU YOUNG DAE (right) of South Korea sends a leaping kick to the head of Nattapong Tewawetchapong of Thailand during the taekwondo men's 58kg flyweight final. You beat Tewawetchapong to win the gold medal. AFP

Billiards may save country

THE SPORT THAT HAS thrived in seedy halls alive with money games and reeking with liquor could very well turn out to be the one that saves a flat-lining Philippine campaign in the 15th Asian Games.

World champion Ronnie Alcano believes so.

"We have a good chance of winning the gold medal," said Alcano, who topped the World Pool Championship recently.

Already a pastime that has been a thorny issue between parents and their teenage children, half the reason of Alcanó's optimism will make poeple in authority cringe even more: High school dropout Jeff de Luna.

"Jeff and [Antonio Gabica] can pull off the feat," the 34-year-old AZBilliards Rookie of the Year said in Filipino. "The format is unforgiving because it is a knockout system and there are a lot of good Chinese-Taipei players in the draw."

De Luna and Gabica are targeting the 9-ball singles gold medal, a prize in the Asian Games that has surprisingly eluded the Philippines, a long-time hotbed of the sport. The country won gold medals in the 1998 edition in Bangkok through Gandy Valle and Romeo Villanueva.

Django Bustamante and Antonio Lining won in 2002 in Busan, South Korea. There will be no 9-ball doubles in Doha, Qatar.

Alcano, who paid a courtesy call to Tourism Secretary Ace Durano and assistant secretary Cynthia Carreon Friday, believes the absence of big names—including his—doesn't hurt the Philippine participation one bit.

"The chances are the same even if it were Bata Reyes or I who we sent because we only have the edge of experience," said Alcano. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Late Sports
More sports stories on A29 to 32

RP finds its silver linings

By Ted S. Melendres
Sports Editor

DOHA, QATAR—TAEKWONDO JIN Mary Antoinette Rivero carried the Philippines' hopes all the way to the finals of the 67-kilogram class Friday night before bowing to a tactically superior South Korean and settling for the silver medal—the best performance yet by a Filipino in the 15th Asian Games here.

Cue artist Antonio Gabica can surpass her feat after barging into the 8-ball finals late last night, assuring himself of at least a silver medal.

Gabica nipped Chinese Taipei's Huang Kun-chang, 9-7, in their semifinal duel and forged a title showdown with Japan's Satoshi Kawabata.

Leonardo Andam settled for the bronze when he bowed to Kawabata, 6-9, in the medal round.

Rivero chased a taller Hwang Kyung-seon all match long but could not score enough points and bowed, 1-6.

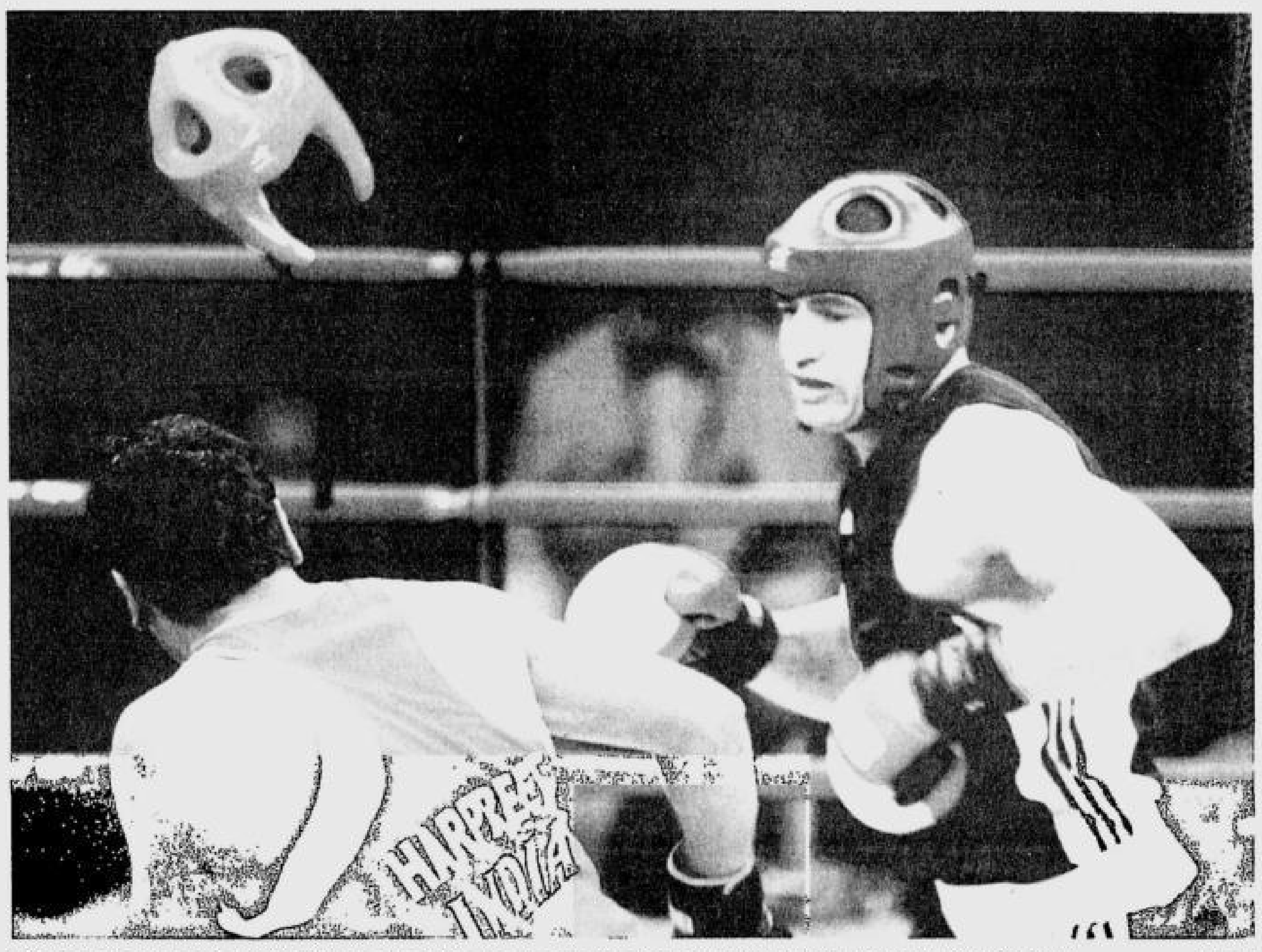
Her silver was the first for the RP contingent after eight days of the competition, shinier than the bronze medals won by teammates Kathleen Eunice Alora in the finweight class and lightweight Veronica Domingo Thursday night.

Tshomlee Go also assured himself of a bronze following a 3-1 victory over Al Rashed Turki Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia in the 62kg class. An offensive-minded Go reached the quarterfinals by beating Kyrgyzstan's Aman Abykenov, 2-1.

Genebert Basadre came out with both fists firing to halt Turkmenistan's Serdar Hudayberdiyev via RSC-Os (referee stops contest-outscored) 27 seconds into the third round and assure himself of at least a bronze in boxing's lightweight class.

Basadre is the fourth RP pug to make the medal rounds after light flyweight Godfrey Castro, lightweight Violito Payla and bantamweight Joan Tipon.

Alexander Briones battled South Korean heavy favorite Park Keong-hoon on even terms in the first two rounds before yielding, 2-3, in the quarterfinals of the 84 kg division.


SYRIA'S Naser Al Shami (right) knocks off the head gear of Indian Harpreet Singh. Al Shami won the bout. REUTERS

In the women's 9-ball play, Iris Ranola took the first five racks on the way to a 7-3 win in the round of 32 over Vana Degermanji of Syria.

In athletics, long jumper Henry Dagmil finished fifth with a 7.76m leap while Joebert Delicano wound up eighth with 7.56m.

Alfie Catalan ruled the roost among riders seeded in the bottom half of the field in the men's individual pursuit qualifying but eventually fell to 14th place once the favorites came in. He failed to qualify with his time of 4 minutes and 48.275 seconds.

The archery competitions proved too tough for the Filipinos. Rachelle Anne Cabral lay in 20th spot with 612 points-41 behind provisional leader Park Sung-hyun of South Korea-after the 70-meter and 60m events in the women's individual qualification round.

Cabral stood eight rungs higher than Katherine Santos (590), in the 60-archer field. Jasmin Figueroa was 34th with 581 while Karen Grace Yasi was 48th with 531.

Fencer Emerson Segui reached the next round in the men's individual foil after winning his duels with Japan's Yusuke Fukuda, Macau's Ho Long-tin and Lebanon's Fady Tannous and losing twice.

Sixth seed Cecil Mamiit whitewashed Sri Lanka's Rajeev Rajapakse, 6-0, 6-0, and Eric Taino overwhelmed Macau's Edgar Wong Chi-ko, 6-1, 6-0, as the two Fil-Americans advanced to the round of 16 in men's singles of the tennis competition.

World junior golf champion Dottie Ardina and Anya Tanpinco fired two-under-par 70s as the Philippines moved to fourth in the women's standings with a score of 284 halfway through the event at the Doha Golf Club.

The Filipinas stood 13 shots off the front-running South Koreans (271).

In men's play, Michael Bibat matched par 72, Marvin Dumandan returned a 73 and Jay Bayron hobbled home with a 74 as the Philippines fell to sixth from fourth with 430, 17 shots behind South Korea.

Beermen mangle Tigers in Lucena

By Musong R. Castillo

GAMES TODAY (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
4:05 p.m.—Welcoat vs Sta. Lucia
6:30 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Air21

LUCENA CITY—DANNY SEIGLE SCORED 17 of his 19 points in the first half yesterday, keying an early breakaway and a 108-91 demolition of Coca-Cola that bolstered the Beermen's bid for an outright semifinal seat in the Talk 'N Text Philippine Cup.

San Miguel took the first quarter by 10, the half by 20, before cruising the rest of the way at the Quezon Convention Center here for the Beermen's 10th win in 15 games.

Barangay Ginebra was the first team to get to 11 wins later after posting a 108-101 decision of Alaska that dropped the Aces into the wild card phase.

The Gin Kings moved to within another victory of earning at least a tie for the second automatic slot in the semifinals at 11-4 after getting 24 points and 16 rebounds from Rudy Hatfield.

Alaska dropped to 5-10 despite getting 23 points from Willie Miller and 21 from Nic Belasco.

Biboy Ravanes called the shots in an acting capacity with coach Chot Reyes failing to make it to the game because of a prior commitment.

The Tigers dropped to 4-12 but remained in ninth place for the moment, just half-a-game ahead of newcomer Welcoat in their own race to be the final team to make the wild card phase.

Meanwhile, action returns to the Cuneta Astrodome today with Sta. Lucia seeking to snap a three-game losing streak against the Dragons in the first game at 4:05 p.m.

Talk 'N Text and Air21 clash in the 6:30 p.m. contest, with both looking for victories that would enhance their chances of nailing outright quarterfinals berths.

The Scores:

First Game

SAN MIGUEL 108—Seigle 19, Racela 18, Ildefonso 13, Adducul 11, Hontiveros 10, Calaguio 9, Peña 9, Tugade 7, Espinas 6, Tenorio 2, Gonzales 2, Wilson 2.

COCA-COLA 91—Arigo 19, Peek 13, Pacana 11, Misolas 11, Yeo 9, Antonio 8, Miranda 7, Ramos 6, Salangsang 4, Caceres 2, Gavino 1, Ferreria 0.

Quarters: 30-20; 60-40; 83-61; 108-91

Second Game

GINEBRA 108—Hatfield 24, Helterbrand 18, Caguioa 15, Reavis 12, Salvacion 11, Mamaril 9, Tubid 8, Menk 7, Abbarientos 4, Seigle 0.

ALASKA 101—Miller 23, Belasco 21, Juinio 17, Cariaso 14, Ferriols 12, Thoss 8, Dela Cruz 5, Laure 1, Luanzon 0, Singson 0, Bajar 0.

Quarters: 27-16; 49-42; 79-83; 108-101

Badminton dream finale: Super Dan battles Hidayat

LIN AFP

HIDAYAT REUTERS

DOHA—INDONESian bad boy Taufik Hidayat will face bitter rival Lin Dan of China for the Asian Games badminton singles title after both won their semifinals Friday.

The gold medal match Saturday will be a tense affair.

Last week, Olympic titlist Hidayat launched an personal attack on Lin, the world champ, saying he was arrogant and unfriendly.

It backfired spectacularly with Lin winning both their clashes at the Games so far.

Hidayat said he was ready for the showdown, and, asked if he thought he could beat the world number one known as Super Dan, Hidayat replied: "Yeah."

"I played well but I'm really lucky. I finished the match in two sets so I've saved some energy and stamina for the next match," he added.

Seventh seed Hidayat made sure of his place in the final with a gruelling 2-0 win over Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei to bring the noisy, flag-waving Indonesian contingent to their feet.

Hidayat, 25, who has slipped in the rankings after injuring his back, showed flashes of his former brilliance with a mix of overhead smashes and crafty drop shots.

In contrast, Lin conceded just three points on his way to taking the first game against South Korea's Lee Hyun Il. He was cautious about his chances against Hidayat.

"It will be my third final against Hidayat," said Lin. "He is in very good shape here. I will have to prepare myself for a tough match." *AFP*

Park starting to make waves, attract attention

DOHA, QATAR—THE TRIPLE GOLD medal-winning performance of South Korea's Park Tae-hwan in the Asian Games pool has caught the eye of 1,500-meter world record holder Grant Hackett.

Park won the 1,500 in an impressive time of 14 minutes. 55.03 seconds on the last night of the swimming meet.

Australia's Hackett has been undefeated in 1,500 finals since 1997, including the 2000 and 2004 Olympics and the world and Pan Pacific championships, but Park's youth and versatility is attracting a lot of attention ahead of next year's swimming worlds.

"I always expected him to swim around that level especially after his 200 and 400 and the way he has been improving over the last couple of years," Hackett told Australian Associated Press.

"He's always been a swimmer that I've been aware of and 14:55s, I think that's only the beginning for him," added Hackett, who expects Park to feature prominently at the world championships in Melbourne, Australia next March and at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"By Beijing he'll be very, very good. He's a very talented young swimmer and seems to be improving a lot." *AP*

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2006 ASIAN GAMES MEDAL TALLY AS OF DEC 09, 2006; 8:08 PM

Nation	G	S	B	Total	Nation	G	S	B	Total
China	95	53	26	174	Vietnam	1	5	5	11
Japan	31	36	45	112	United Arab Emirates	1	3	1	5
South Korea	24	29	51	104	Bahrain	1	2	1	4
Kazakhstan	12	9	24	45	Indonesia	1	1	6	8
India	6	9	10	25	Tajikistan	1	0	1	2
North Korea	5	7	9	21	Jordan	1	0	0	1
Taiwan	6	3	11	20	Myanmar	0	3	2	5
Thailand	4	10	16	30	Philippines	0	1	2	3
Malaysia	3	6	5	14	Iraq	0	1	1	2
Hong Kong	3	6	5	14	Turkmenistan	0	1	0	1
Singapore	3	3	9	15	Krygyzstan	0	1	0	1
Kuwait	3	2	1	6	Pakistan	0	1	0	1
Qatar	2	5	4	11	Nepal	0	0	2	2
Mongolia	2	3	2	7	Afghanistan	0	0	1	1
Uzbekistan	2	0	7	9	Bangladesh	0	0	1	1
Saudi Arabia	2	0	2	4	Lebanon	0	0	1	1
Syria	2	0	0	2	Macau	0	0	1	1
Iran	1	6	3	10					

WUSHU athletes competing in the 15th Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, are shown with Philippine Sports Commission Officer in charge Leon G. Montemayor, who encouraged them to bring home more medals from the quadrennial event slated Dec. 1-15.

National Youth Commission

NYC, UNFPA nurture youth advocates

By Rosel A. Isidro

The National Youth Commission and the United Nations Population Fund provided venue for the 267 youth leaders from the country to discuss and to craft policy recommendations on the prevailing youth issues affecting their lives during the 6th National Youth Parliament held recently in Bohol.

A biennial undertaking mandated by Republic Act 8044, the National Youth Parliament delegates were chosen by the Commission taking into consideration equal and geographical representation among men and women.

The UNFPA paved the way for the wide participation of the youth, especially those coming from the ten disadvantaged provinces identified under their 6th Country Program, including: Mt. Province, Ifugao, Masbate, Bohol, Eastern Samar, Sultan Kudarat, Sulu, Tawi Tawi, Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur.

NYC Chairman Richard Alvin M. Nalupta underscored the partnership of the NYC with the UNFPA in addressing youth concerns, and in ensuring that the voices of the youth will be heard in formulating youth development policies.

Dr. Suneeta Mukherjee, UNFPA country representative challenged the youth to dream high for the greatest challenge is life itself. "You are not only the future of the Philippines, but you are also the today of the Philippines, thus, you must be influencing the policies for the youth," Mukherjee said.

An offshoot of the convention is the creation of the Confederation of Youth Advocates, composed of officers elected by the delegates to ensure that advocacy efforts will be organized, thus the selection of regional convenors, and chairpersons of the seven committees: Adolescent Reproductive Health, Cyber Youth, Magna Carta of Students, Youth Networking and Localization, Youth Migration, SK Reforms and Constitutional Reform.

Only a month after the convention, the NYC expects the 31 youth advocates in a capability building training this month in Baguio City on advocacy, organizational management and action planning. The NYC sees the need to harness the potential of these officers in pushing for their policy recommendations, while building and strengthening the Confederation.

This empowering activity is also in line with the celebration of the Linggo ng Kabataan, which is being celebrated every second week of December, as provided in the Local Government Code of 1991 (R.A. 7160).

The following agencies both from government and NGOs served as members of the Technical Working Group for the implementation of the 6th NYP: Advocates for Youth (A4Y), UP Population Institute, Department of Education, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Population Commission, National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, Philippine Information Agency, Employers' Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP), The Forum for Family Planning and Development, Inc., Philippine NGO Council on Population, Health and Welfare, Inc., Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development, Inc.

6th NATIONAL YOUTH PARL

from left: Comm. Princess Abante, Comm. Benjie Oliva, Chairman Richard Alvin Nalupta, Dr. Suneeta Mukherjee, Comm. Hanny Camid, Comm. Mike Lopez

Nalupta pushes for wider youth participation

NYC Chairman Richard Alvin M. Nalupta

A believer of open dialogues, Richard Alvin M. Nalupta, National Youth Commission (NYC) Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer expressed satisfaction over the turn out of youth participation during the 6th National Youth Parliament.

Attended by 237 youth leaders from all over the country, this NYP holds the highest record of NYP participants. Youth organizations across all sectors and across ideological leanings were represented. "This shows the agency's commitment to include as many youth leaders as possible in policy dialogues," Nalupta said.

Discussions during the four-day Parliament resulted in 20 Resolutions for the seven NYP issues: Adolescent Reproductive Health, Cyber Youth, Magna Carta of Students, Youth Networking and Localization, Youth Migration, SK Reforms and Constitutional Reforms.

These Resolutions form part of the advocacy work to be carried out by the NYC and the youth parliamentarians. Considered as policy recommendations, these Resolutions largely influence policy directions concerning the youth sector.

Nalupta emphasized the importance of the NYP when he told the youth parliamentarians, "Let this NYP be a witness to our continuing firm resolve to work hard until the Filipino youth's vision becomes a reality."

Urgent reforms

Inadvertently, the NYP became a prelude to renewed discussions on SK reforms, which are crucial areas of concern before the next SK elections set in 2007.

Nalupta, a former President of the SK National Federation and a two-term Provincial SK President of Ilocos Norte, has been pushing for SK fiscal autonomy. "This is the best way to exact financial accountability from SK officials," the youth leader said.

At present, SK funds come from barangay funds or from local government allocations for the municipal and city levels. While SK officials can use their funds for some of their activities, for the most part, the use of such fund remains restricted.

Nalupta also said that SK membership should be reverted to the 15 to 21 age bracket. Youth from 15 to 17 years old will compose the SK members while those belonging to the 18 to 21 bracket will be qualified as officials. Without prejudice to ages, the NYC head said those at the higher age bracket are more mature to handle responsibilities.

Wider participation

Nalupta wants to see wider youth participation for the coming year. He noted that two elections are to be held in 2007: the national and local elections, and the SK elections.

He said, "It is part of our mandate to mobilize the youth to participate in these national activities." In fact, one of the projects he wants the NYC to initiate is a calibrated information dissemination among the youth about the ongoing voter's registration for the elections.

6th NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT LIST OF APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

A. Committee on Adolescent Reproductive Health

Resolution No. 1 (A Resolution Urging the President of the Republic of the Philippines, Local and Provincial Government Officials, Sangguniang Kabataan, the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHEd), to Implement the Integration of Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Levels in an Age Appropriate, Culture and Gender Sensitive, Rights-Based Approach)

Resolution No. 2 (Resolution Urging the Local Government Units in Cooperation with Concerned Agencies to Spearhead the Formulation of Local Adolescent Reproductive Health Ordinance Creating the Adolescent Reproductive Health and Rights Task Force, Appropriating Funds Thereof, and For Other Purposes)

Resolution No. 3 (A Resolution Urging All Local Government Units (LGUs), Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHEd), and Other Concerned Agencies and Organizations to Establish In-School and Community-Based Youth Centers and to Allocate Appropriate Funds for the Purpose)

B. Committee on Cyber Youth

Resolution No. 1 (A Resolution Urging the Congress and the Senate Enacting a Law Proposing a National Mandatory Regulating and Filtering System)

Resolution No. 2 (Resolution Supporting House Bill 6759 "Free/Open Source Software (FOSS) Act of 2006" Authored by Rep. Teodoro A. Casino)
Resolution No. 3 (Resolution Supporting Peace Tech, Peace Tech Embassy and Encouraging the Utilization of Technology for Peace)

Resolution No. 4 (Resolution Strengthening the Interactivity and Presence of the Website of the National Youth Commission at www.youth.net.ph)

Resolution No. 5 (Resolution for the Creation of the National Youth Parliament Website)

C. Committee on Localization and Youth Networking

Resolution No. 1 (A Resolution Strongly Endorsing the Creation of Confederations of Youth Organizations in Every Local Government Unit in Line with the Localization of the 2005-2010Medium-Term Youth Development Plan (MTYDP).

Resolution No. 2 (A Resolution Strongly Supporting the Pending Bill Entitled an Act to Further Strengthen the Youth Development Program by Creating Local Youth Development Councils in Every City and Municipality and Appropriating Funds Thereof)

Resolution No. 3 (A Resolution Requesting All Local Government Units for the Passage of an Ordinance Creating Local Youth Development Council (LYDC) in Line with the Medium-Term Youth Development Plan (MTYDP)

Resolution No. 4 (A Resolution Requesting Local Government Units to Grant Incentives and Other Non-Monetary Benefits to Private Business Entities Supporting Youth Development Programs)
Resolution No. 5 (A Resolution Endorsing the Creation of a database for Easy Access of Information with Regard to All Existing Youth Organizations Within a Locality)

Resolution No. 6 (A Resolution Encouraging an Annual Observance of a National Youth Day of Interfaith Prayer and Dialogue)

D. Committee on Youth Migration

Resolution No. 1 (A Resolution Urging the Office of the President to Issue an Executive Order to the Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Justice, National Youth Commission, Philippine Information Agency and Other Concerned Agencies to Launch a Sustainable Advocacy Campaign on the Protection of the Rights of Filipino Youth Migrant and Migrant Workers

Resolution No. 2 A Resolution Requesting the Office of the President to Issue An Executive Order Directing the Professional Regulatory Commission to Create a Mandatory 2-Year Return of Service Program to All Professional Youth as a Prerequisite for Employment Abroad.

E. Committee on the Magna Carta of Students

Resolution No. 1 (A Resolution Strongly Urging the 13th Congress of the Republic of the Philippines to Enact the Proposed NYC Version of the Magna Carta of Students, Adopting the Revision of the 6th National Youth Parliament in the System of Student Representation in the School Governing Board)

Resolution No. 2 (A Resolution Strongly Urging the President to Include and Certify the Urgency of the Passing of the Magna Carta of Students)
Resolution No. 3 (A Resolution Urging Students from Private, Public, and Vocational/Technical Schools Other Sectors to Lobby the Adoption and Implementation of Their Local Version of Magna Carta of Students in Their Schools)

F. Committee on SK Reforms

An Act to Strengthen and Reform the Sangguniang Kabataan Amending for the Purpose Certain Provisions of RA No. 7160, Otherwise Known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and for Other Purposes. That seeks to amend some portions of the 1991 Local Government Code to strengthen the SK such as:

-15% of Barangay General Fund set aside for SK for fiscal autonomy
-SK Treasurer shall deposit funds preferably to a bank nearby or at the city/municipal treasurer
-submission of statement of actual income every year
-privileges of SKs: receive honoraria for SK members other than the chairman which is 20% of the honorarium of the SK President; exempt from taking NSTP
-duties and functions of SK officials: quarterly KK meetings, localization of program of action, team-building activities for KKs quarterly, no synchronized elections, election of SKs six months before barangay elections, age 18-21 years old (SK), KK qualifications, grounds for disciplinary actions, appropriations, separability clause, repealing clause, effectivity.

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RAUL DOMINIC I. BADILLA
Commissioner representing Luzon

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Santa wears a police uniform

By Tarra V. Quismundo

'It's fulfilling to help someone. You feel blessed because you are able to give'

SUPT. GILBERT CRUZ, A SEASONED POLICE officer, once traversed the quiet waters off Navotas for a crucial mission.

But the operation did not require guns, handcuffs or arrest warrants.

Cruz was carrying bags of toys for children in a poor community on an island that many Metro Manilans probably do not even know about.

Now Makati police chief, the police officer who began the "Santa Cops" program in 1997, has made it his annual Christmas ritual to play Santa to underprivileged children in the metropolis.

Not surprising since Cruz regards the man in the red suit as an inspiration.

"Normally, I would see (Santa Claus) on TV giving gifts to children," said Cruz, the brains behind the "Santa Cops" project he started nine years ago at the San Juan Police Station and which he has brought to the country's financial capital.

But the police officer also draws from personal experience in his desire to bring cheer to kids.

Cheerful giver

"I experienced how it was not to have toys. So why not give toys when you have the capacity and the opportunity to make children happy every Christmas?" the 42-year-old decorated Cruz, a survivor of critical anticrime operations (two of them almost costing his life) told the INQUIRER.

The Tondo lad began his Christmas gift-giving in 1987, three years into his career in the Philippine National Police (PNP). The annual ritual has taken him to slum areas in Manila, Mandaluyong and Cainta, Rizal.

Cruz said he wanted to spare children from having to fashion out toys from wood and empty cans, just like he did in his youth.

"I would go to toy stores but we (family) could not afford them. I can still remember how I would make trolleys out of wood and metal bearings, a slingshot out of a tree branch and rubber, a pull-cart using four tin cans as wheels and a can of sardines as the body," said Cruz, smiling at the recollection.

Tondo resident

He was about 8 then, the police officer recalled, the second of four sons of a credit collector and a banana vendor in a public market in Tondo.

"You know how it is in Tondo. There are many children and they all come from wealthy families," said Cruz laughing heartily at his own joke.

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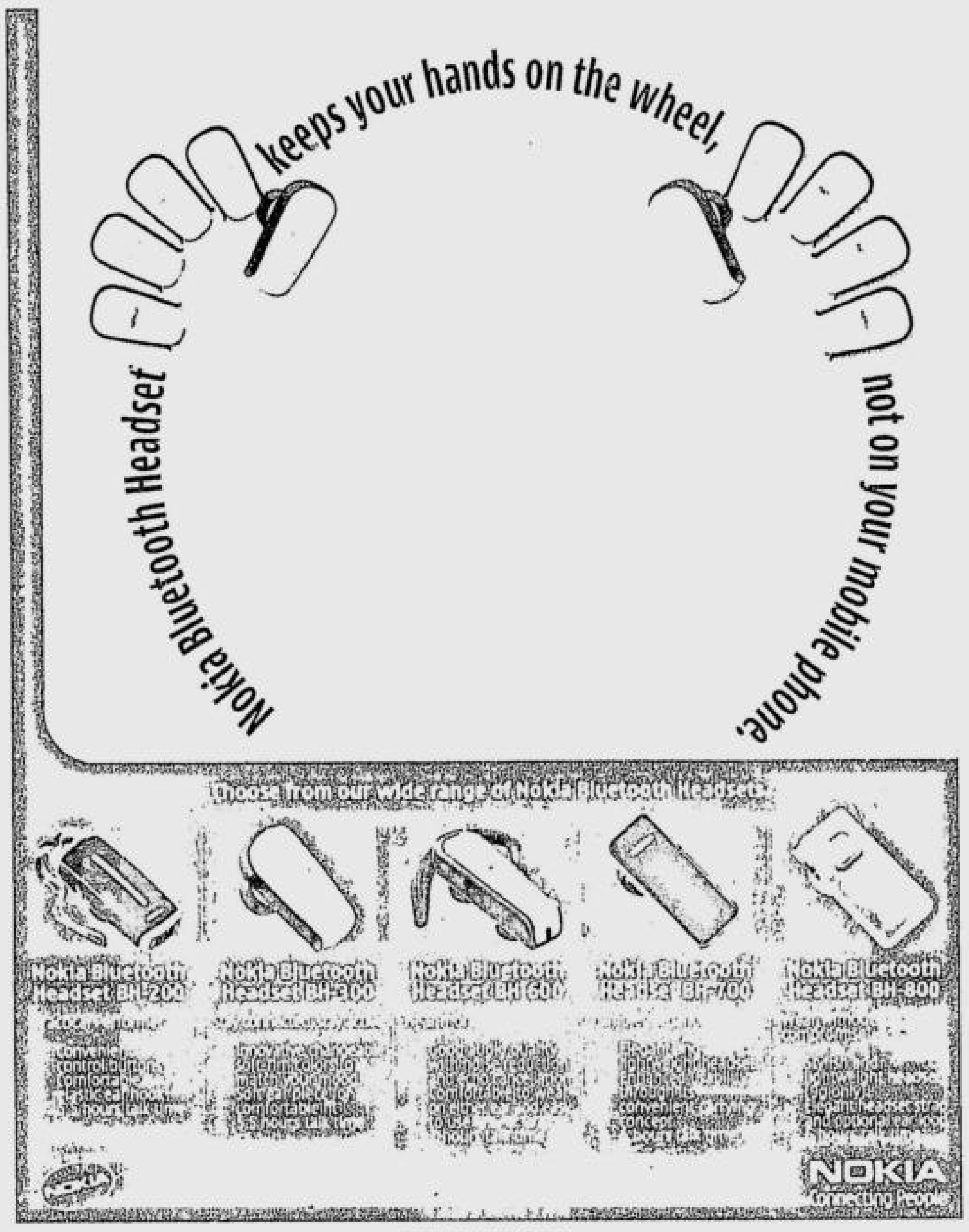
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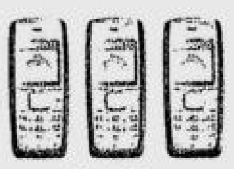	
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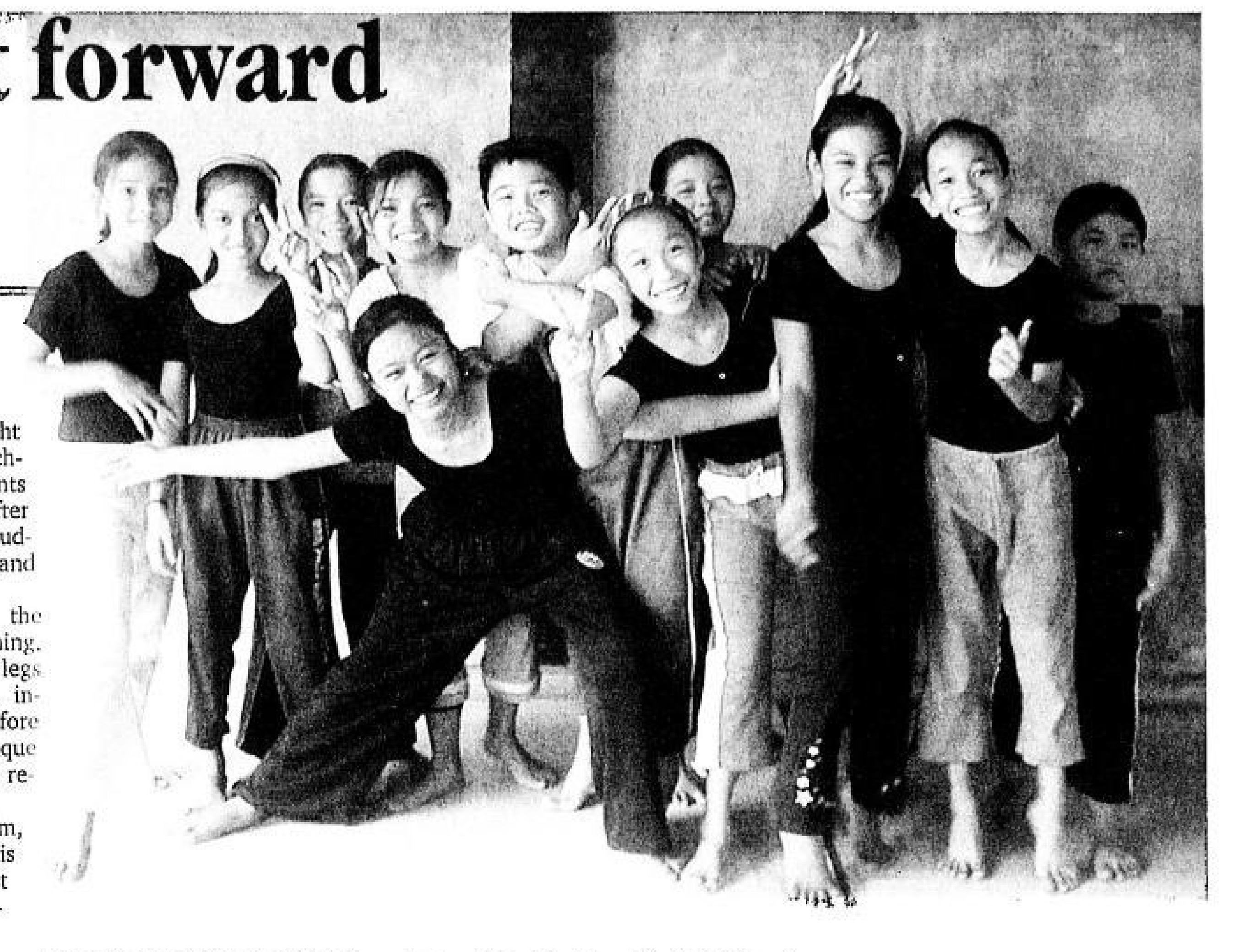
Ballet teacher pays it forward by teaching dance to Marikina youths



URSABIA'S PRIDE AND JOY: The scholars of the Marikina City Ballet Theater.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

By Maricris Irene V. Tamolang

TALES OF THE CITY

HIS DANCING BROUGHT HIM fame in the world of performing arts.

But former danseur Victor Ursabia now finds teaching more fulfilling.

In 1999, months after retiring from Ballet Philippines, Ursabia opened his own studio and began training promising young kids in Marikina City.

"After 13 years of ballet, it is time to give back the blessings and share the art," the 41-year-old artistic director of the Marikina City Ballet Theater, the first ballet school recognized by the city government, told the INQUIRER.

Drawing on his professional experience, Ursabia started what he called one-on-one quality training seven years ago. But last summer, he decided to teach a bigger class for free.

Future stars

"I want to cultivate the children's potential and watch them grow up to be Marikina's future stars," he said, adding that his vision inspired him to give his best.

"From techniques to characterization, my 'talents' receive the same quality training given to my paying students," the performing arts instructor and choreographer said.

His efforts have started to pay off. Some of his first students, who came from as far away as Cavite and Sucat in Parañaque City, have left to perform abroad.

In January, he offered his expertise to elementary and high school students at the SSS Elementary School, Marikina Christian Integrated School and Marikina Heights School.

The training is held 5:30-8 p.m., Monday-Thursday and on weekends.

Attitude before technique

Ursabia said he first observed each student's character and worked to develop in them the right attitude. Dance techniques or movements were taught later after his students had studied the pattern and style of the art.

"I show them the right way of stretching, of extending their legs and right posture, including grace, before they undergo technique training and dance rehearsals," he said.

According to him, he learned this method from his first ballet teacher, Nordin Jumalon of Ballet Philippines, who was not only a mentor but also like a father to him.

VICTOR Ursabia performing the role of Bluebird pas-de-deux in Sleeping Beauty. He was with Ballet Philippines from 1986 to 1999.

Natural dancer

Ursabia said learning ballet came easy to him because of his love for dancing even as a child. "I guess, the talent runs through my veins," he told the INQUIRER.

He said as a high school student, his passion for performing led to his participation in several presentations and competitions in and outside the school.

"It was the time when break dance, street dance, disco, rap and 'strut' were popular," he recalled.

In 1981, Ursabia took up accounting at the Philippine School for Administration in Sampaloc, Manila but quit after a semester to pursue his real interest.

He enrolled the following year at the Cultural Center of the Philippines dance school in Pasay City where he underwent formal training from 1983 to 1986 through a scholarship in advance classical ballet and modern dance.

Compromise

But he also took up Fine Arts, major in interior design, at the Philippine Women's University. "It was part of a compromise I made with my father, who is a certified public accountant," he said.

Upon his retirement from the stage, Ursabia was appointed manager of the CCP production department. But most of his free time was spent in his studio training his young scholars.

Last February, his students performed for the first time at Teatro Marikina. The show, "Pinoy Sweet," was held with the support of Wilson Go, owner of the center for the performing arts studio in Makati and CCP artistic director and vice president Nanding Josef.

"It was an interpretation of Pinoy classical music merged with Western music. And, on Sept. 5, during Marikina's Sapatero festival, they performed with members of Ballet Philippines," Ursabia said.

This was followed by another performance on Sept. 30 before students and teachers from different schools in Marikina City.

"It is inspiring to see children of the common folk perform like pros," Ursabia said of his scholars. "They are no different from rich kids. They even show greater tolerance for intensive training."

(Victor Ursabia is a veteran and multi-awarded ballet dancer who started performing at age 17. He was with Ballet Philippines from 1986 to 1999. Among his roles were Benvolio in "Romeo and Juliet," Bluebird pas-de-deux in "Sleeping Beauty," Pas de Trios and Jester in "Swan Lake," and Drosselmeyer in "Nutcracker.")

Police uncover alleged slay plot vs Munti mayor

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

POLICE HAVE ALREADY BEEFED up security for Muntinlupa City Mayor Jaime Fresnedi following reports of an alleged plot to kill him and two others.

"We have increased the level of security (for Fresnedi) based on the information we have received," city police chief Supt. Jose Mario Espino said.

He told the INQUIRER that police learned of the alleged threat from an informant who volunteered the tip on Thursday.

According to the informant, there was a plot to "liquidate" Fresnedi, as well as the head of the Muntinlupa business permits and licensing office and a consultant.

"We are now verifying the information," Espino said.

The city public information office refused to give specific details of the alleged death threat and information officer Tez Navarro said they were still checking the information.

But Navarro said Fresnedi already had a suspect in mind.

Navarro added that the alleged threat was likely to be politically motivated—which, according to the official, was puzzling because the mayor is on his third and last term.

Espino said the threat had not affected the mayor's schedule: Fresnedi attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Alabang viaduct the other day.

The city government, however, has started taking precautions, including giving the mayor additional security escorts.

The INQUIRER tried to interview Fresnedi but was told that his phone had been turned off.

Security guard files raps vs Manila police official

By Tina G. Santos

A STATION COMMANDER OF the Manila Police District is now in hot water after a security guard filed a string of charges against him for alleged brutality.

Charged with robbery, arbitrary detention and violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices (RA 3019), the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees (RA 6713), and Miranda rights (RA 7438) was Supt. Jose Joya Asayo, chief of the Sampaloc Police Station.

The complaint was filed by Daniel Luis Tabinas, 30, of Sta. Mesa. He accused Asayo of mauling him inside the police station three weeks ago.

In his affidavit, Tabinas said Asayo had accused him of stealing a generator starter from the Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP) campus in Quiapo where he worked as a security guard.

Tabinas said he considered Asayo, whose wife owned the security agency where he was employed, as his employer.

On Nov. 20, Tabinas said six policemen appeared at the TIP after the school lost its generator starter a few days before.

For questioning

The policemen brought him to the Sampaloc Police Station, where Asayo questioned him about the lost starter.

Tabinas said Asayo began threatening him to make him admit that he had stolen the generator starter. If he did not confess to the crime, he would suffer the same fate as the other thieves detained at the station, the police officer reportedly warned him, he added.

When Tabinas refused to give in to Asayo's demands, the police official allegedly instructed his men to detain the victim.

"When I asked him to file the necessary charges against me first, Asayo began punching me in the chest and stomach," Tabinas said in his complaint.

Asayo also allegedly hit him twice on the back with a nightstick, the security guard claimed, adding that an unidentified policeman also told the other detainees to maul him inside the cramped cell.

The security guard was freed the following day after his wife paid Asayo P7,000.

Apart from Asayo, also named respondents in the case were Alfredo Quilang and Napoleon Saccuan, operations and security officers, respectively, of the security agency; and Insp. Carlo Manuel of Sampaloc Police Station.

Tabinas claimed that Quilang initially questioned and investigated him about the loss of the generator starter while Saccuan was the one who referred the case to Sampaloc Police Station, which Tabinas claimed, has no jurisdiction over Quiapo where TIP is located.

On the other hand, Manuel reportedly prepared and made him sign an affidavit of undertaking stating that the loss of the generator starter was due to his negligence, Tabinas said.

The INQUIRER tried to contact Asayo at the Sampaloc Police Station but desk officer SP02 Leo Marquez said the police official did not report to work yesterday. Asayo could not also be reached on his cellphone.

Santa wears a police uniform

From page A25

SUPT. GILBERT CRUZ: A real-life Santa for the past 19 years.

EDWIN BACASMAS

ment organizations, Cruz has been playing Santa for close to 20 years now.

"Before, I used my own money on the project. But friends and sponsors donated toys when they saw I was serious about giving gifts to the poor. I would do it usually before Christmas, but if I'm busy, I do it after the holidays," he said.

His "bags" hold toy cars, dolls, coloring books and other educational materials.

Cruz seeks the help of fellow police officers in identifying impoverished areas and the children most deserving of the treats. A list is prepared and those on the list get stubs to claim their gifts.

"I ask other policemen, former classmates where the depressed areas in their beats are. I ask them how people are doing," said Cruz.

This led him to that community in Navotas.

Shocking sight

"It so happened that in Navotas, I had a classmate who told me he had feeding programs in one community. So we went there, and I was so shocked at what I saw," said Cruz.

"People there made a living selling charcoal out of the twigs and wood that had been washed ashore. I gave out toys and clothes because I noticed that most of the children had no clothes," he said.

Shortly before leaving his former station in San Juan this year, Cruz distributed his gifts three months earlier. He plans to have a similar activity in Makati, where he has been stationed since October.

Seeing the joy on the faces of recipients of his gifts never fail to move the tough cop and father of two.

"Most of the children would forget to say thanks, which is normal. When a child is very, very happy, that's what happens, and that makes me even happier. Often they forget to say thanks as they immediately open their gifts," he said.

Cruz also wants to make Christmas merry not just for kids but for everyone with Makati's Santa Cops, an anticrime project that is the station's way of spreading cheer this holiday season inside malls and markets around the city.

Bright idea

"I saw that crime incidents often rise with the approach of Christmas. More crimes happen the more crowded a place gets. So I had an idea: Why not put police officers in Santa's costume?," said Cruz.

"First, that will provide additional security in the mall. Then, it will give cheer to kids who go shopping or strolling around the mall with their parents because, apart from patrol duty, Santa Cops also give out candies," he said.

Even when he retires from the PNP, Cruz said he would keep playing Santa to the less privileged for as long as he can.

"It's fulfilling to help someone," the police officer said. "You feel blessed because you are able to give. It only means that the year has been so productive, so fruitful that you are able to give. And that makes my heart feel light."

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

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Text us your feedback:
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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Fil-Am helps fellow nurses pursue the American dream

By Lindablue Romero-Barton
Contributor

NELLY JOCSON with husband: "I saw the need in the community. That's why I built a school to train Filipinos who want to join the healthcare industry here."

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA—WHILE MOST FILIPINO NURSES in the United States are either working in hospitals or convalescent homes, Nelly A. Jocson chose a different path by establishing the first nursing school for minority groups here in America.

Thirty-five years after she came to the US, Jocson is now considered a leader in nursing education, giving Filipinos and other groups the chance to realize their American dream.

Her company—Nursing Care Providers Inc.—has already helped hundreds of students finish their LVN program (Licensed Vocational Nurse) since the course was offered in 1997.

"I had always hoped of establishing a school committed to an education that fused competence and character in each person, a school that shaped an individual into an honest, productive and competent contributor in society," Jocson says.

Jocson sought accreditation with the federal government so that students of NCP could avail of scholarship grants. Her hard work paid off as NCP students can now apply for a grant with Sallie Mae Fund, the nation's leading provider of student loans which help millions of Americans afford the cost of higher education.

"It pains me to see many students who are academically qualified to finish their nursing education but cannot do so because they do not have enough money," she says.

Building credibility

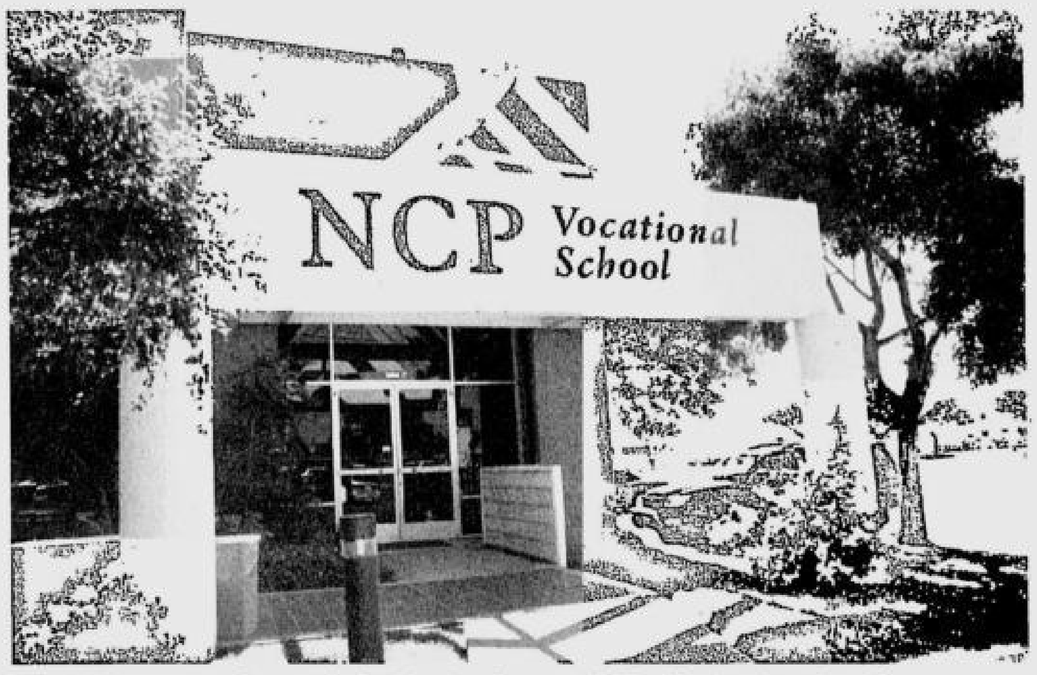
Students who are qualified to avail of the federal grant can pay their loan later on for as low as $10-$20 per month.

When she came here in 1972, Jocson started as a clinical nurse working in St. Luke's Hospital in San Francisco. After a short stint with the maternal and child care unit, she moved to another department working as a nursing in-service instructor, and then later on as director of education, a position she last held before she resigned in 1988.

She was still working in St Luke's when she decided to establish her own company, NCP. In the hospital, she developed a program that assisted foreign graduate nurses make a smooth transition into nursing practice in the US. She also provided review classes for Filipino nurses that helped them pass their NCLEX-RN while holding the training for foreign nursing graduates.

But as soon as she left St. Luke's, Jocson focused her time and energy as full-time director of her company.

Concentrating on building the school's credibility, Jocson in 1993 first offered Certified Nursing Assistants and Home Health Aide courses.



WHERE dreams are dreamed, cherished and nurtured: The Nursing Care Providers Vocational School, the first nursing school for US minorities in San Francisco, California

These courses were approved by the Department of Health Services and certified by the Bureau of Private Post Secondary and Vocational Education of the State of California. The school has branches serving communities of San Francisco, San Bruno, Walnut Creek and Stockton.

"I saw the need in the community that's why I immediately jumped on the opportunity to provide the needed education to train the people who would be interested in joining the healthcare industry," she says.

Students enrolled in the program did not only learn the basic nursing aide course as NCP had to assist a good number of them who cannot speak the English language very well.

Four years after the nursing aide/home health aide courses were offered by NCP, Jocson expanded the program in 1997 by offering the vocational nursing program. In that same year, the first NCP opened in San Francisco and to accommodate the growing number of applicants, a new branch was opened in Hayward which recently offered classes for part-time students to give those who work and with little financial resources finish the program.

Rising demand

Some 200 students are at present enrolled in NCP's two campuses. A full-time student can finish the program in a year while a part-time student can complete the LVN course in 18 months.

In September 2007, NCP will offer the "bridge program" which will allow LVN graduates to finish the Registered Nursing program in cooperation with another school. NCP is finalizing an agreement with Holy Name University to complete the RN program with the university offering science courses.

"As soon as the vocational nursing program came to meet the demand of the nursing shortage, other schools opened also offering LVN program. Although we only have a limited number of graduates, the school has nevertheless responded to the crisis situation by producing very good graduates," Jocson says.

Approximately one third of the nursing workforce in the US is over 50 years of age and the average age of full-time nursing staff is 49 years. Nursing, in hospitals and nursing homes especially, is physically demanding. Older nurses are getting tired and many are no longer able to cope with the demands of shift work and the long hours. Add this to the shortage already being felt in many parts of the country and it is no wonder that many nurses are feeling burned out with plans to leave their jobs.

Corporate officials of nursing homes in the US have offered signing bonuses as much as $5,000 just to attract applicants while rate for referral fees (for people who were instrumental in recruiting a new nurse) could reach $1,500.

Based on the identified trends in the supply of registered nurses and anticipated demands, the nursing shortage is expected to double by 2010, according to a study conducted by the US Department of Health.

Can't say 'No'

With this scenario, Jocson believes that the demand for Filipino nurses will continue not only in the United States but all over the world.

"Filipino nurses have shown a different commitment to work. They are very willing to help when the facility is short of staff especially on weekends when nobody wants to report for work. Most of all, they demonstrate a more caring and respectful approach in dealing with their patients," she says.

On the other hand, she noted that Filipino nurses are taken advantage of as their accommodating nature is seen as not knowing how to say no, even if they are already overworked.

She has also committed herself into helping her alma mater, Silliman University College of Nursing, where she received the prestigious Sillimanian Award in the field of Nursing Service six years ago.

She once headed the fundraising for the Library Book Project for Silliman University and donated $20,000, including the matching fund from the United Board Higher Education in Asia during the University's centennial celebration in August 2001.

And what then is her advise to those who want to succeed in their chosen profession? Says Jocson: "Very simple. Think ahead. Visualize yourself. Do not create limitations."

Growing up Pinoy and wacky in America for all the world to see

By Cathy S. Babao Guballa
Contributor

STEP ASIDE, REX NAVARETTE.

A twentysomething first-generation Filipina-American nurse, born and raised in Virginia Beach, Virginia, has placed the experience of growing up Pinay in America on the world wide web via YouTube, a popular, free video-sharing Web site which lets users upload, view, and share video clips.

"Happy Slip" has become one of the most popular videos on YouTube. In a span of three months, each segment garners a hundred thousand plus hits each time a new segment is posted by its pretty and wacky creative director cum actress-producer, simply called Christine.

"I've been acting and imitating family members ever since I was young, my mom said I should be like Carol Burnett," Christine shares, "I knew that I always wanted to be an actress, but thought I should have a skill to support that dream. So I studied to be an LPN (little Pinay nurse). I didn't want to lose sight of a dream, but at the same time I didn't want to depend on my acting craft to feed me."

Christine and her sister live in New York City fulfilling their dream in the arts.

Christine has signed up with an advertising agency. Her sister is active in poetry reading and with Kundiman, a nonprofit organization committed to the discovery and cultivation of emerging Asian-American poets. However, Christine, who believes that humor is the best medicine, dishes out her own brand of healing laughter on a weekly basis through "Happy Slip" which had its maiden airing on YouTube only last September but has garnered quite a diverse following composed mainly of first-generation immigrant offspring based all over the world, primarily in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Germany.

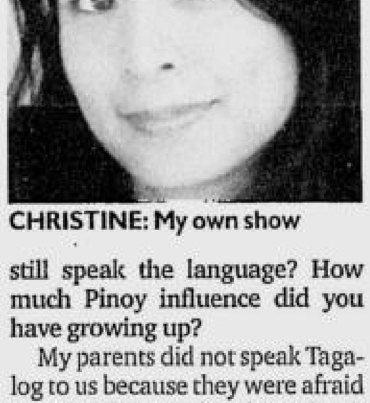
Christine shares with INQUIRER readers the beginnings and inspiration for "Happy Slip":

What prompted you to start "Happy Slip?"

I'm always looking for a creative outlet and had thought of one day doing a one woman show... As I discovered that people could have their own "channel" on YouTube—I thought "Well, here is a way to have my own show whenever I have the time for it, and the world is the audience!"

Are the family situations, dialogues really drawn from real-life?What do your parents and other relatives say when they see your portrayal of them?

Yes, I pull moments that are from the past and might change some of the details surrounding the funny moment. But so far, the family videos are based on "classic" moments from the family. They laugh just like everybody else when they see these imitations. In fact, during family get-togethers (especially during the holidays), there is always a point in the night where everyone is bored. My mom ends up coming up to me and begging me "Come on! Imitate me!" as well as everyone else cheering me on to imitate different family members.



CHRISTINE: My own show

How Filipino are you? Do you still speak the language? How much Pinoy influence did you have growing up?

My parents did not speak Tagalog to us because they were afraid we would be confused in school. That decision has haunted us our whole lives because we wish we could speak the language, and we only understand some of the language. We always had our big extended family around while growing up, plus our church family that had many Filipinos, as well. So, I do speak and understand it, but only a little.

What are your dreams for "Happy Slip?"

Why I picked the name "Happy Slip" is not only because it is a funny phrase from the past... but it reflects what I'd like people to feel when they watch these videos. As if they "slip into happiness" while watching—cheerful fun moments to just laugh and enjoy. My dream is that people would have a smile on their face when watching these little productions and that it would brighten up their day. As far as a year from now, I'm open to working on other projects that come as a result of "Happy Slip," but still continuing to do these happy little video productions.

Any plans of doing a one-woman show among the Fil-Am community there? How about coming over here?

I won't say "never" to that, but I guess it would just depend on how much time it would involve. The nice thing about video, is you put all your time and energy into a project once—but people all over the world can repeatedly watch it! I quite like doing the videos because I love to edit on the computer as well. They allow me to do everything I love to do!

What message do you hope to spread through "Happy Slip?" You are such a bundle of talent and placing it on YouTube is making the world aware of the Fil-Am experience, of growing up Pinay in America.

I would like people to see that you can be creative, funny, entertaining, and family-friendly all at the same time and have the world as your audience. It's nice to see that we are in an era that you don't have to wait for the big studios to give you a chance to shine. You can create your own opportunity, your own vehicle and dictate what you want to do and how you want to do it!

Did you expect to get such a wide audience from "Happy Slip?"

No, I thought it may provide a few laughs, but I did not I expect to get so much e-mails from all over the world.

Come and visit me at www.happyslip.com and help spread the word!

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bush targets Iraq policy change by Christmas

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH will work on a new approach to Iraq in meetings with top advisors next week, and could announce the strategy before Christmas, the White House said Friday.

Pressure is building on Bush after he distanced himself from several key recommendations put forward by a top bipartisan commission this week, which called for a complete overhaul of US policy to avert Iraq's slide into chaos.

He will frame his decision in talks with his secretaries of state and defense, military commanders and US ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad, as well as outside experts.

The White House says Bush carefully studied the Iraq Study Group report, and is awaiting results of several key internal reviews of Iraq policy.

"He's going to take all that information … and boil that down," for the "new way forward that he wants to have in Iraq, because he knows that that's necessary," said White House deputy spokesperson Dana Perino.

The goal is for Bush "to be able to give a speech before Christmas (Dec. 25), but it's not set in stone," Perino said.

The Iraq Study Group report, which warns that the situation in Iraq is "grave and deteriorating," called for most US combat troops to be withdrawn by early 2008, talks with Iran and Syria, and for a new Middle East peace effort.

Bush, who admitted on Thursday that "we need a new approach" in Iraq, also discussed the situation there with top congressional leaders Friday.

"We talked about the need for a new way forward in Iraq, and we talked about the need to work together on this important subject," Bush said.

But incoming Democratic speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, was more combative, saying: "the time for change is now and it is apparent to the American people … hopefully the president has got the message." The president will visit the State Department on Monday then convene top outside experts on Iraq in the Oval Office. On Tuesday, he will have a video-conference with military commanders and Khalilzad.

Wednesday will see Bush at the Pentagon, Perino said.

Bush has already said that even the commission did not expect him to agree with every recommendation, amid signs that the White House may pick-and-choose ideas which suit it from each review of the conflict.

But James Baker, the former US secretary of state who cochaired the study group, said Thursday that the report should not be cherry-picked.

"I hope we don't treat this like a fruit salad and say 'I like this, but I don't like that, I like this, but I don't like that,'" Baker said.

"This is a comprehensive strategy designed to deal with this problem we're facing in Iraq." *AFP*

Air strike kills at least 20

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—THE ONLY thing that was clear from the accounts of Friday's air strike by US forces north of Baghdad was that at least 20 Iraqis had been killed.

But American and Iraqi officials disagreed on just about every other point.

The US military said that 20 people had been killed, including two women, and that they were all insurgents tied to al-Qaida. Iraqi officials gave death tolls that ranged from 22 to 32, and said that the deceased were two extended families that included as many as 10 children.

An average day of violence shows just how difficult counting can be here, particularly in rural areas that are hard to reach like the site of Friday's strike, which occurred in Salahuddin, a predominantly Sunni province north of Baghdad.

The US military described Friday's attack this way: The strike occurred before dawn, shortly after US soldiers came under fire as they searched buildings. Soldiers fired back, killing two gunmen, but the shooting did not stop, and the Americans called in "close air support," which fired down on the area, killing 18 people. Two of those killed were women.

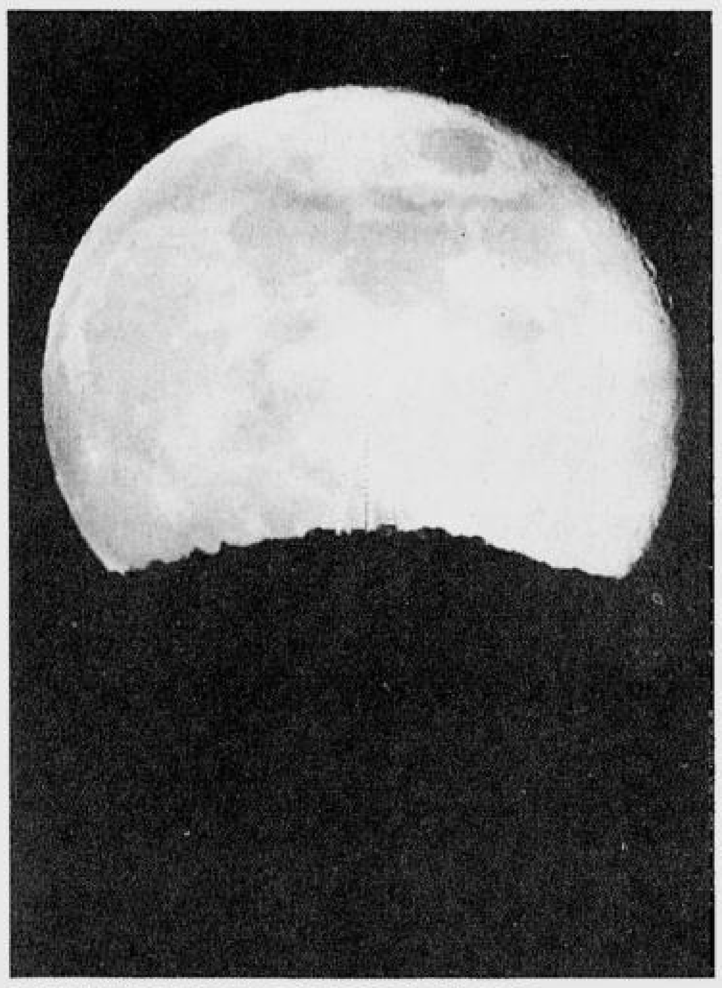
"Al-Qaida in Iraq has both men and women supporting and facilitating their operations, unfortunately," the military said in a statement. US soldiers found a weapons cache that included machines guns, suicide vests and rocket-propelled grenades, the military said.

A military spokesperson, Sgt. Sky Laron, declined to give the name of the village where the battle occurred but said it was 15 miles south of Samarra and 30 miles west of Balad.

That description matches the location of the town of Ishaqi, where local police officials earlier this year accused US soldiers of killing civilians then covering it up with an air strike. The military investigated and later cleared the soldiers.

Two Iraqi officials—the governor of the province and an official from the administration of the town of Ishaqi—said that the strike had taken place in a village near Ishaqi, and that it had killed members of the extended families of two brothers, Muhammad Hussein al-Jalmood and Mahmood Hussein al-Jalmood.

A senior official in the Salahuddin governor's office said that six children had been killed. Amer Alwan, the official from Ishaqi, put the number at 10. *NYT*



CHRISTMAS TREE ON ANGEL ISLAND
The full moon rises over a lone decorated Christmas tree on Angel Island, as seen from Sausalito, Calif., Dec. 6. AP

US Congress OKs India nuke deal

WASHINGTON—THE US CONGRESS EARLY on Saturday took a major step toward permitting the sale of American-made nuclear reactors and fuel to India by giving final approval to a White House-backed bill.

The Senate approved the measure unanimously following its passage late on Friday by the House of Representatives, 330-59.

It now goes to President George W. Bush for his signature.

The Bush administration and its allies contend that civil nuclear commerce to expand electricity generation in India will foster a broad range of ties with the world's largest democracy—a rising South Asian power—and open up billions of dollars in trade for US companies.

Critics decried the bill as a historic mistake that would undermine US efforts to curb the spread of nuclear weapons.

Other critical approvals—by Congress a second time, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the 45-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group—are needed before the agreement can take effect. That will not happen before some time next year.

Republican Rep. Henry of Illinois, chair of the House International Relations Committee, voiced hope the measure will mark "the beginning of a new and ever-closer relationship between the world's two largest democracies, the United States and India." The deal reverses 30 years of US policy that, until July 2005, opposed nuclear cooperation with India. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Fire in Moscow hospital kills 45 women

MOSCOW—A fire believed due to arson broke out overnight in Moscow's drug rehabilitation hospital, killing 45 people, emergency ministry and fire service officials said early Saturday. All 45 died before the firefighters' arrival, Deputy Emergency Minister Alexander Chupryan said as quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency, adding that 10 more people were injured. All of the victims were women, including two of the hospital's staff, as the fire started in the hospital's women's wing. *AFP*

Jeane Kirkpatrick; 80

WASHINGTON—Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, a political science professor whose support for Ronald Reagan conservatism catapulted her into the post of US ambassador to the United Nations, has died at 80. She was the first woman to hold the post. Initially a liberal Democrat, Kirkpatrick championed human rights, opposed Soviet Union communism and supported Israel.

KIRKPATRICK AP

"She defended the cause of freedom at a pivotal time in world history," President George W. Bush said Friday. "Jeane's powerful intellect helped America win the Cold War." Kirkpatrick's son, Stuart, said she died Thursday at her home in Bethesda, Maryland, where she was under hospice care. *AP*

Commonwealth suspends Fiji after coup

LONDON—The Commonwealth on Friday suspended Fiji with immediate effect after a military coup there earlier this week that it condemned as showing "total disregard" for the island's elected government. The Commonwealth suspension added to the international outcry over the coup. The United Nations Security Council, the United States, the European Union and several nations have condemned the takeover. *AFP*

Masako turns 43, slowly recovering

TOKYO—JAPANESE CROWN PRINCESS Masako turned 43 on Saturday and said she was slowly recovering from the stress-related illness that has kept her largely out of public view for the past three years.

But her doctors say that while her condition has improved, she still tires easily and continues to require treatment after years of stress caused by adapting to palace life, including pressure to bear a male heir.

That pressure eased somewhat in September after Princess Kiko gave birth to Prince Hisahito, the first male heir born to the imperial family in more than 40 years.

Masako and Crown Prince Naruhito have a 5-year-old daughter, Aiko.

"With the warm support of the crown prince, I have slowly begun to improve," Masako said in a statement. "Under the direction of my doctors, I have gradually begun to expand the number of activities I pursue, including public duties." *Reuters*

JAPANESE Crown Princess Masako waves from her car as she visits the Imperial Palace to celebrate her 43rd birthday with the Emperor and Empress, Tokyo, Dec. 9. REUTERS

Probe finds negligence in Foley sex scandal

WASHINGTON—REPUBLICAN LEADERS IN the US Congress broke no rules but were negligent in their handling of a scandal involving a fellow lawmaker's advances toward male aides, an ethics committee said.

The House of Representatives' ethics committee issued its findings Friday after an investigation into the text sex scandal surrounding Republican Mark Foley, who resigned on Sept. 29 amid allegations he sent inappropriate e-mails and text messages to young male aides working in the chamber.

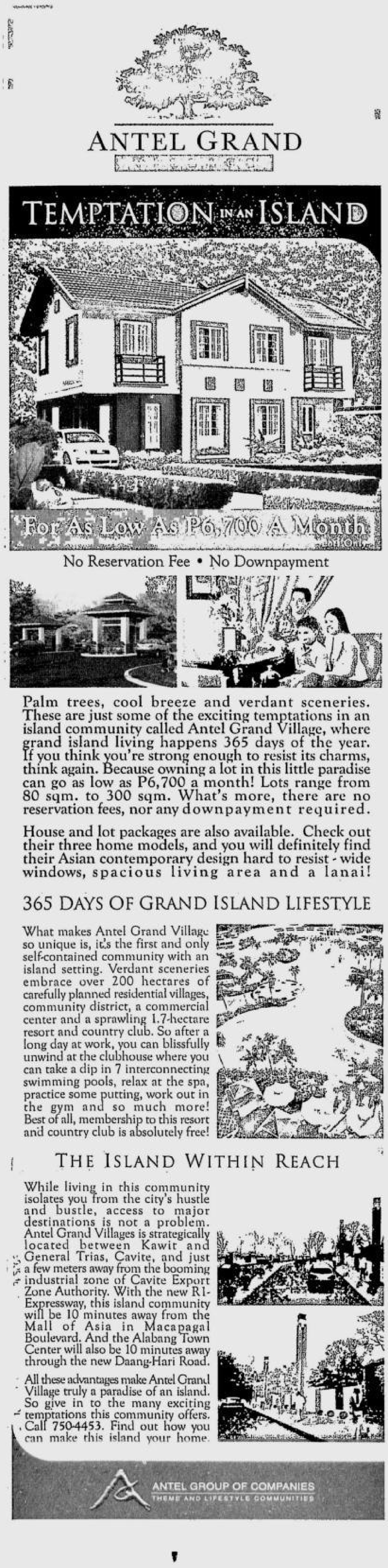
Republican leaders in the House displayed "a disconcerting unwillingness to take responsibility" for addressing concerns about Foley's conduct, even though questions arose about the lawmaker's overtures to young aides more than ten years earlier, the report said.

"Rather than addressing the issues fully, some witnesses did far too little, while attempting to pass the responsibility for acting to others," said the report, prepared by a bipartisan group of Democrats and Republicans.

"In all, a pattern of conduct was exhibited among many individuals to remain willfully ignorant of the potential consequences of former Representative Foley's conduct with respect to House pages," it said.

The Foley scandal, which broke just weeks before legislative elections on Nov. 7, has been cited as a contributing factor in the Republicans' defeat at the hands of the Democrats, who won back control of Congress for the first time since 1994.

The outgoing speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert, has maintained he was not aware of the concerns about Foley until the lawmaker resigned his seat on Sept. 29. But the probe contradicted Hastert's account, saying "the weight of evidence" indicated the Republican leader was told about Foley's e-mails months earlier. *AFP*



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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

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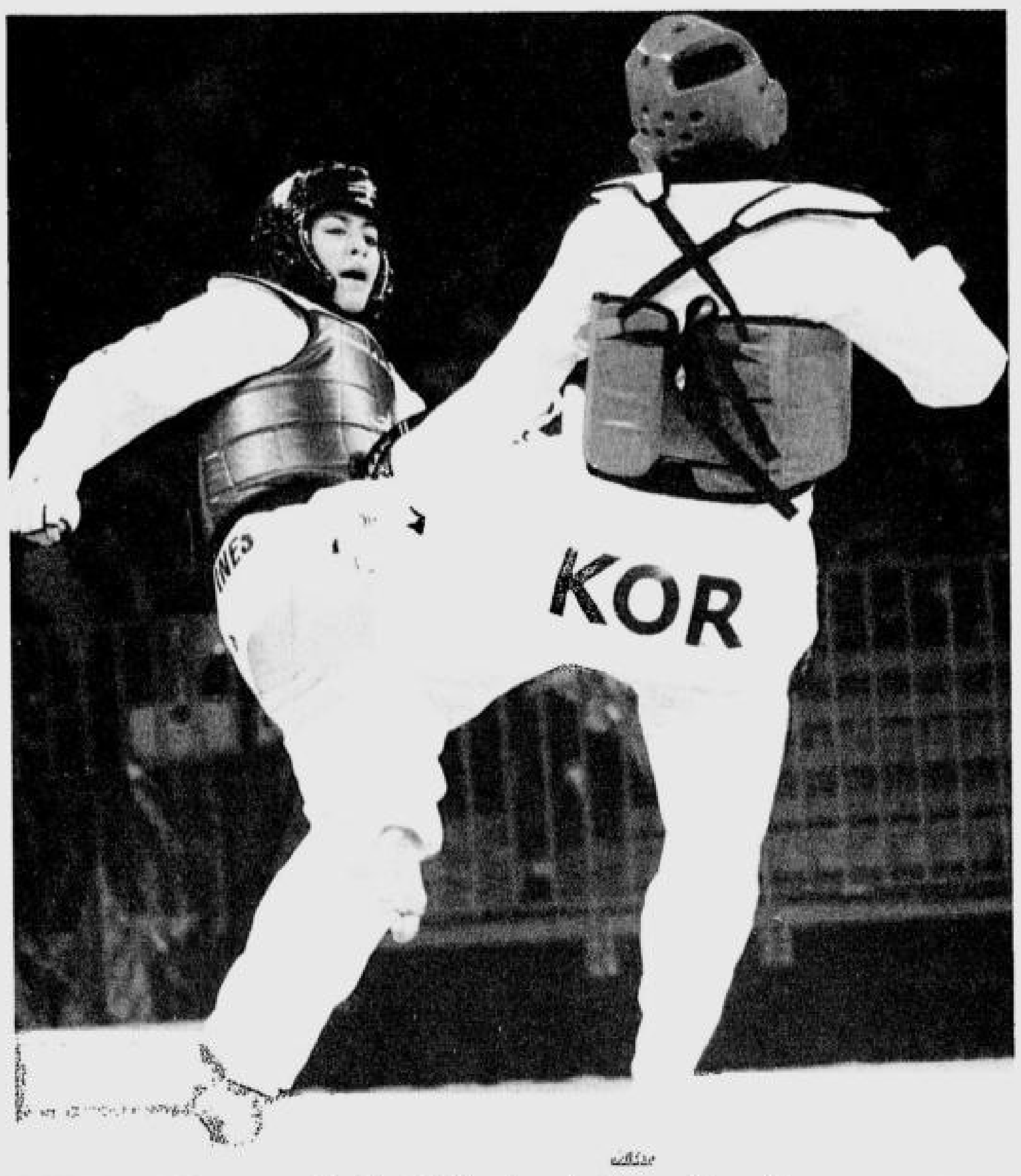
WHAT'S INSIDE **Philadelphia puts grumbling star Iverson on trading block A32**



TONI Rivero (left) wages a spirited but futile battle against Korean Hwang Kyung-seon. LYN RILLON

Cue artists lift RP spirit; jins resume quest

By Ted S. Melendres

DOHA, QATAR—A HIGHLY PROBABLE ALL-FILIPINO GOLD-medal match looms in the 8-ball billiards event of the 15th Asian Games here today as regional hotshots Leonardo Andam and Antonio Gabica go up against foes they have played before.

15TH ASIAN GAMES DOHA 2006

Andam, a multiple gold-medalist in several Southeast Asian Games, and Gabica, a leg winner in the tough San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour this year, resume play at 1 p.m. at the Al-Sadd Multi-Purpose Hall in the vast Sports City here.

The 46-year-old Andam clashes with Japanese cue master Satoshi Kawabata while Gabica, 34, battles Chinese Taipei's Huang Kun-chang, the only remnant of Chinese Taipei's powerful 8-ball squad after the quarterfinal exit of former world champion Wu Chia-ching.

"We have played against them (Kawabata and Huang) before and they are both beatable," said Andam, referring to matches in five legs of the Asian tour which the Filipinos, including the absent Efren "Bata" Reyes, swept.

Grumbling stomach

Andam overcame a grumbling stomach and his unfamiliarity with amateur rules to pip Thailand's Amnuayporn Chotipong, 9-8, and Gabica followed suit by halting the run of Alok Kumar of India, 9-6, in two of Friday night's quarterfinal matches.

Gabica and World Pool quarterfinalist Jeffrey de Luna compete in the opening round of the men's 9-ball before Rubilen Amit and Mary Ann Basas try their luck again in the women's singles. Both Filipinas failed to make it to the medal round of the 8-ball Friday, with Basas getting as far as the quarterfinals before falling.

Outgunned and outsmarted by the opposition in the first four events in tenpin bowling, the under-performing RP bidders resume play in the final blocks of the men's and women's Masters.

The bowling squad have failed to land a single medal so far despite a star-studded lineup that includes reigning world singles champion Biboy Rivera, international bowling federation "Bowler of the Century" Paeng Nepomuceno, former World Cup champion CJ Suarez and former world trios champions Cecille Yap, Liza del Rosario and Liza Clutario.

There is less expectation for a medal in track cycling, but the riders will be gunning to break national records when they vie in four events today featuring professional track specialists from China, Kazakhstan and Iran.

Carlo Jazul and Jan Paul Morales compete in the men's individual sprint qualifying, Marites Bitbit in the women's qualifying of the same event and Alfie Catalan in the individual pursuit finals before a trio made up of Paulo Manipol, Jan Paul Morales and Edwin Paragoso vie in the team sprint finals.

"The field is world-class, full of professional riders and will be very competitive in all aspects," said an RP cycling official. "Bitbit can spring a surprise in the individual pursuit."

The divers also take to the pool for the first time with Niño Carog and Zardo Domenios pairing up in the men's synchronized 3-meter springboard final at 4 p.m. before Rexel Ryan Frabriga and Jaime Asok combine their talents in the women's synchronized 10m platform final.

Filipinos debut in equestrian and fencing today with Juan Ramon Lanza, Danielle Cojuangco, Marie Antoinette Leviste and Paola Zobel plunging into action in the individual and team qualification at the Doha Equestrian Jumping Arena and Gian Carlo Nocom seeing action in men's individual sabre and Melly Joyce Angeles in the women's individual epee at the Al Arabi Sports Club.

The first foe of wrester Margarito Angana in the 55 kg category of the men's Greco Roman event has not been drawn and so are the opponents of netters Cecil, Mamiit, Eric Taino, PJ Tierro, Johnny Arcilla, Denise Dy and Mae Arevalo in the men's and women's singles.

Finweight

Kirstie Alora tries to sustain the Filipinos' gains in taekwondo when she clashes with Kazakhstan's Tathmina Khojaeva in the 59 kg category at the Indoor Hall of Qatar Sports Club. Kirstie's sister Kathline Eunice bagged the bronze in the finweight class Thursday.

The men's squad of Jay Bayron, Marvin Dumandan, Michael Bibat and Gene Bondoc and the ladies team of Cyna Rodriguez, Anya Tanpinco, Dottie Ardina tee off for the third round of the individual and team competitions at the Qatar Golf Club at 7 a.m.

Action resume in sailing as well as in canoe-kayak where Marvin Amposta is entered in the 1000m singles and Danny Funelas in the 1000m canoe races, and in chess where the team of Ronald Dableo, Darwin Laylo and Jodera Docena vie in the fourth round of the mixed team event.

Ricky Espinola and Robert Andrew Garcia take on the rest of the world-caliber field in squash at 3 p.m.

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ELEZAR GOMEZ
FREDELIZ GOMEZ
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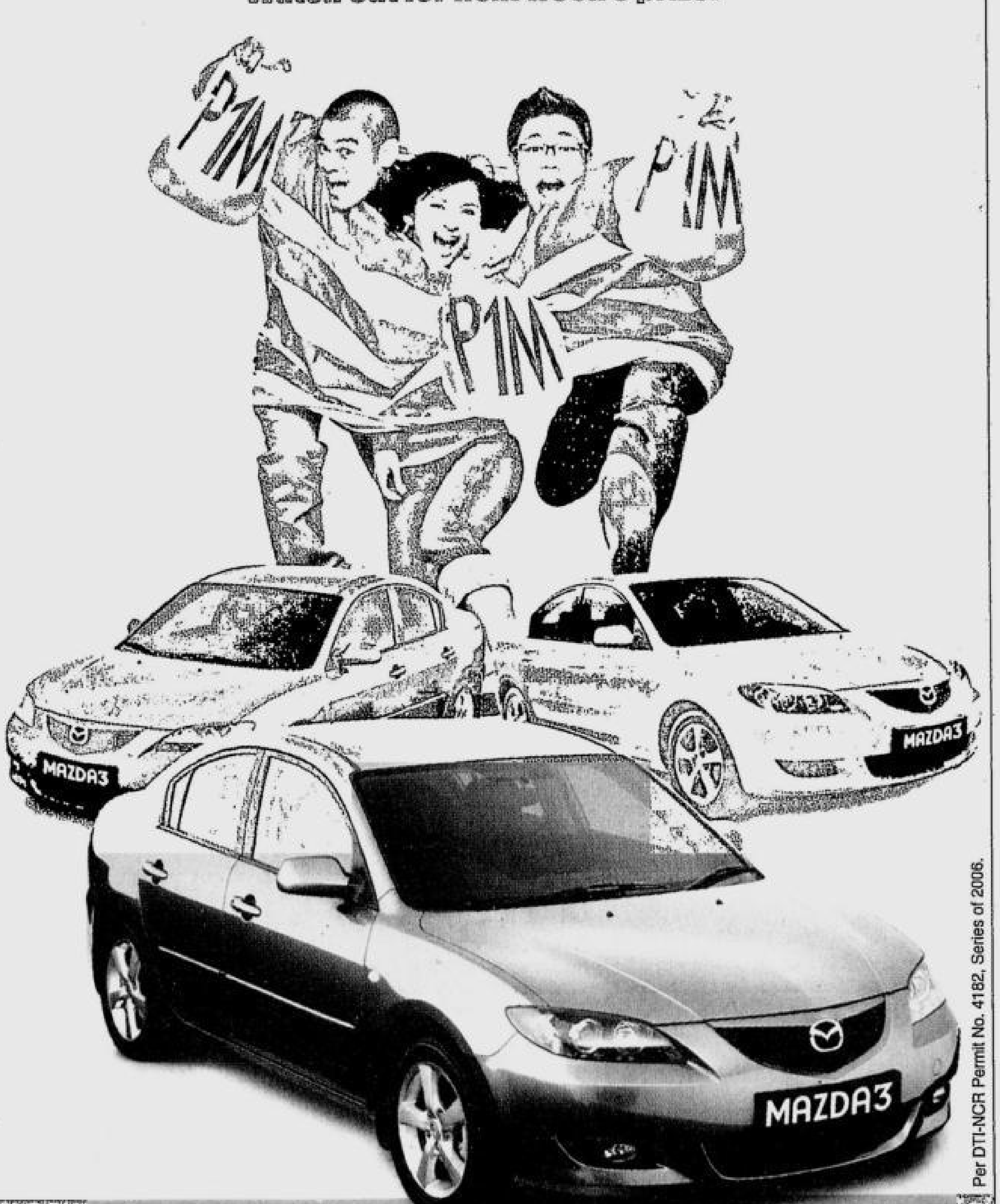

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Pinoy bets inch closer to 1st gold

By Ted S. Melendres

DOHA, QATAR—VETERANS LEONARDO ANDAM AND ANTONIO Gabica won their quarterfinal matches in the 8-ball pool singles late Friday night and assured the Philippines of at least two more bronze medals in the 15th Asian Games here.

Another victory for Andam and Gabica in the semifinals scheduled Saturday afternoon will set up an all-Filipino final and clinch the country's first gold in the 45-nation meet.

The 46-year-old Andam overcame a grumbling stomach and his unfamiliarity with amateur rules to pip Thailand's Amnuayporn Choti-pong, 9-8, before Gabica improved on his last-eight finish in the 2002 Busan Asiad by halting the run of Alok Kumar of India, 9-6, at the Al-Sadd Multi-Purpose Hall north of the capital.

Andam sets out as a slight underdog when he clashes with Japanese cue master Satoshi Kawabata for a shot at the gold medal today while the 34-year-old Gabica battles Chinese Taipei's Huang Kun-chang.

Huang became the only remnant of the mighty Taiwanese squad in 8-ball following the defeat of the heavy favorite and former World Pool champion Wu Chia-ching to Malaysia's Ibrahim Amir, 8-9, in the quarterfinals. Amir eventually bowed to Kawabata, 3-9.

"I couldn't focus in my match against the Thai because I was starving and paid a lot of attention to the rules," said Andam, whose tournament schedule Friday prevented him from getting something to eat. "But my opponent gave me a chance to win and I took it despite a few errors."

Andam gave away three racks after getting assessed with penalties for rule infractions but the Thai didn't faze him.

"He was not that tough," Andam added in Filipino. "I was just minding the rules, that's why I couldn't focus. Amateur and professional rules differ a lot, and I am a professional player. But I will remember all my errors so they will not be repeated."

Gabica, a father of two from Cebu who now resides in Quezon City, said he wants to perform well in the billiards events after Filipinos were shut out of the medals in snooker and English billiards.

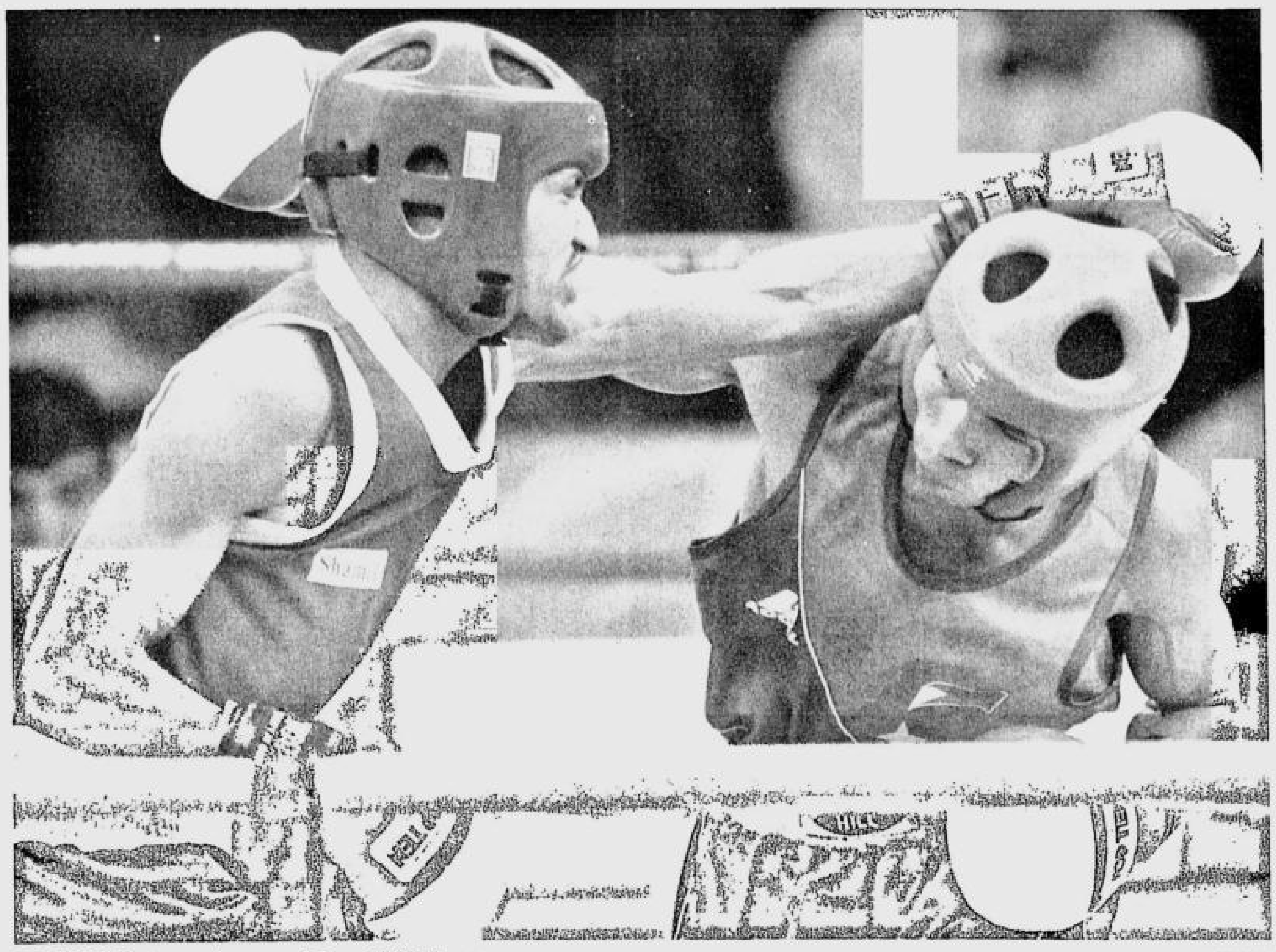
"My countrymen are watching at home and I don't want to disappoint them by not winning a medal," he said. "There was a bit of pressure in the early matches, but now that Andam and myself are already in, we will play our best to reach the finals."

Southeast Asian Games double gold medalist Rubilen Amit and Mary Ann Basas were not as fortunate and yielded to separate foes before reaching the medal matches.

Amit was halted by Thailand's Santhinee Jaisuekul, 7-4, in the round of 16, while Basas got as far as the quarterfinal where he took a heart-breaking 6-7 defeat at the hands of China's Zhou Mengmeng.

After taking a bye in the round of 64, Andam whipped Vietnam's Nguyen Hoang Lam, 9-2, and reached the round of 16 with a similarly easy 9-3 win over Iraq's Ahyab Naseef.

Gabica, who also took a bye in the opening round, clinched his final-four seat with victories over Mongolia's Gundsambuu, 9-1, Indonesia's Ricky Yang Han Tjong, 9-5, and Alok.



GODFREY Castro evades a punch from Ali Al Ahmry.

LYN RILLON

RP DAILY SKED—Dec. 10

Bowling—*9 a.m.*—Women's Masters Final Block; *12:30 p.m.*—Men's Masters Final Block

Canoe-Kayak—*9:10 a.m.*—single (K1) 1000m (Marvin Amposta); *9:30 a.m.*—canoe (c1) 1000m (Dany Funelas)

Chess—*3 p.m.*—Mixed Team Round (Darwin Laylo, Ronald Dableo, Jedara Docena)

Cue Sports—*10 p.m.*—Men's 9-ball (Jeffrey de Luna, Antonio Gabica); *4 p.m.*—Women's 9-ball (Rubilen Amit, Mary Ann Basas)

Cycling Track—*12:30 p.m.*—Men's sprint qualifying (Carlo Jazul, Jan Paul Morales); *12:47 p.m.*—Women's individual pursuit qualifying (Baby Marites Bitbit); *1:45 p.m.*—Men's individual pursuit finals (Alfie Catalan); *2:28 p.m.*—Men's Team sprint finals (Paulo Manipol, Jan Paul Morales, Edwin Paragoso)

Diving—*4 p.m.*—Men's synchronized 3m springboard final (Nino Carog, Zardo Domenios); *7:10 p.m.*—Women's synchronized 10m platform final (Rexel Ryan Fabriga, Jaime Asok)

Equestrian—*9 a.m.*—Individual 1st qualifier, Team Round 1 (Juan Ramon Lanza, Danielle Cojuangco, Marie Antonette Leviste, Paola Zobel)

Fencing—*9 a.m.*—Men's individual sabre (Gian Carlo Nocom); *12:30 p.m.*—Women's individual epee (Melly Joyce Angeles)

Golf—*7 a.m.*—Men's third round (Jay Bayron, Marvin Dumandan, Michael Bibat, Gene Bondoc), Women's third round (Cyna Marie Rodriguez, Anya Tanpinco, Dottie Ardina)

Sailing—*11 a.m.*—Mistral Light Race 8, 9, 10; Mistral Heavy Race 8, 9, 10 470 men

Squash—*3 p.m.*—Men's (Ricky Espinola, Robert Andrew Garcia)

Taekwondo—*2 p.m.*—Kirstie Alora vs. Tathmina Khojaeva

Tennis—*10 a.m.*—Men's singles. Women's singles

Wrestling—*9 a.m.*—Men's Greco Roman 55 (Margarito Angana)

Myanmar lifter kicked out after failing drug test

DOHA, QATAR—WEIGHTLIFTER Than Kyi Kyi of Myanmar tested positive to a banned diuretic and was the first athlete disqualified for doping at the 15th Asian Games.

Olympic Council of Asia director general Husain Al Musallam announced the positive case Saturday.

Than, who placed fourth in the women's 48-kilogram division, waived her right to have a B sample tested after her initial urine sample taken Dec. 2 showed elevated traces of a diuretic, Al Musallam said.

Diuretics are on the list of banned substances because they can be used to mask illegal steroids.

Than, 28, won a gold medal in the snatch in the 46-kilogram class at the 1997 world championships in Chang Mai, Thailand and was a silver medalist at the Southeast Asian Games last year in Manila.

Ranked sixth in the world rankings at the end of 2005, she was one of 40 athletes from Myanmar at the games.

The Doha Games dodged an earlier doping scandal when discus thrower Seema Antil opted not to compete here despite Indian athletics federation dismissing a case against her.

Minutes after an AFI emergency panel's decision was released Friday, the Commonwealth Games silver medalist asked to withdraw from the games because of "emotional stress."

Antil, 23, reportedly failed an out-of-competition doping test conducted at an Indian training camp in Oman last month.

AFI secretary Lalit Bhanot released the news of Antil's clearance in a media statement Friday, then left on a flight for the Asian Games.

Antil was stripped of her 2000 junior world championships title after testing positive to a banned stimulant.

The AFI convened the urgent hearing with Antil's Dec. 11 competition date in mind and, without elaborating beyond saying the panel's decision was in accordance with IAAF regulations, found that Antil was innocent, Indian media reported. *AP*

Rivero settles for silver medal

By Ted S. Melendres

DOHA, QATAR—THE FIRST THING THAT comes to mind when you think of Marie Antoinette Rivero is her hair which she fixes, well, differently. At 5 feet 7 1/2, the hair makes her look much taller.

Or her uncommon courage in the 2004 Athens Olympics where, despite all odds, the then 16-year-old from Makati moved within a win away of clinching the bronze medal in taekwondo. As luck would have it, she met a Greek in a quarterfinal of an event in the Greek capital.

Rivero has since moved on. She trained day and night with the rest of "the guys" at the taekwondo gym at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex and sharpened her skills even more.

Friday night was supposed to be her coronation day, but a taller Hwang Kyung-seon stood in the way.

Rivero, who likes to be always on the offensive in the mat, charged up early but just couldn't match the South Korean's tactical superiority and lost, 1-6, in the 67-kilogram final. The coronation had to wait.

But she wasn't sore this time.

Rivero rewarded the embattled Philippine contingent in the 15th Asian Games here with its first silver medal, one better than the bronze both finweight Kathleen Eunice Alora and the veteran lightweight Veronica Domingo clinched in their respective divisions Thursday night.

"We tried to find a way of defeating her (Hwang) because she was taller," said Rivero. "But her experience and reach carried her through most of the fight."

"I am honored to be given the chance to win the gold for my country. I wish and pray that my teammates will go all the way."

On the way to the finals, Rivero came from behind to nip Kazakhstan's Liya Nurkina, 2-1, in the quarterfinals before showing the door to Vietnam's Bui Thu Hien of Vietnam, 3-0, the same fighter the Filipina beat in the semifinals of last year's Manila SEA Games.

But two other RP jins fell Friday night before reaching the medal rounds.

Loreine Lorelie Catalan battled Chinese Taipe's Wu Yen Ni tooth and nail in their 51 kg quarterfinals but lost by superiority after the match had ended at 0-0.

Ernesto Juan Mendoza III of Cagayan de Oro scored the first point but was overpowered in the second and third rounds by another Taiwanese, Liao Chia-hsing, 1-6, and bowed out of the 78 kg round-of-eight.

Taekwondo has been the only source of medals so far for the RP contingent with three, although three boxers and two billiards players have already reached the medal rounds and are assured of at least a bronze each.

MARIE ANTOINETTE RIVERO

Taiwan thwarts India, tops women's tennis

DOHA—TAIWAN CLINCHED AN early Saturday morning gold medal by exploiting India's weakest link to lift the Asian Games women's tennis team title.

Chuang Chia Jung and Hsieh Su Wei beat Sania Mirza and Shikha Uberoi, 7-6, 6-1, in a deciding doubles rubber which ended after a marathon gold medal match which had started 14 hours earlier and had been held up twice by rain.

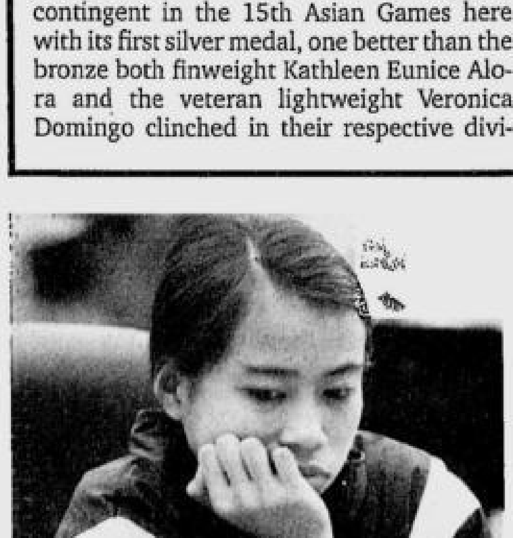
The Tawianese duo made a point of piling the pressure on Uberoi and avoiding golden girl Mirza whose presence here had given a timely boost to crowd figures at the Games.

"We played really aggressively at the net and from the baseline," said Chuang. "We knew Uberoi isn't very good at the net so we played the ball a lot to her." Chuang added that she and Hsieh were not distracted by the noisy, patriotic crowd which had turned out to see Mirza.

"When they cheer for India, we just pretend that thay are singing. That way we don't need to worry about about them."

Uberoi, who also lost her opening singles rubber 6-2, 7-5 against Hsieh, admitted defeat was a bitter pill to swallow.

Mirza had levelled the final for India with a comfortable 6-2, 6-2 win over Chuang in her singles rubber. *AFP*



JEDARA DOCENA

LYN RILLON

Filipino chess players remain in contention

Standings after three rounds:

7.5 points—India; **7**—Vietnam; **6.5**—Qatar, China, Indonesia; **6**—Uzbekistan; **5**—Kazakhstan, Philippines, Syria; **4.5**—Mongolia, Iran, Jordan; **4**—Bangladesh, Turkmenistan, UAE, Bahrain; **2.5**—Sri Lanka, Palestine; **2**—Nepal; **1.5**—Japan, Macau

DOHA—INTERNATIONAL MASTERS Darwin Laylo and Ronald Dableo and Jedara Docena bested their respective rivals as the Philippines blanked Macau, 3-0, in the 15th Asian Games chess tournament.

The lopsided victory vaulted the Filipinos into a tie for seventh to ninth places with Kazakhstan and Syria with five points.

Laylo outclassed Rodolfo Abelgas, Dableo trounced Mak Tong Kuan and Docena whipped Sin I Chan to complete the rout for the Filipinos, who were 2.5 points behind solo leader India going into the fourth round.

Top seed India, led by super GMs Krishnan Sasikiran and Pentala Harikrishna, nipped host Qatar, 2-1, in the battle of early leaders. Sasikiran subdued GM Mohamad Al-Modiahki, while Harikrishna downed Im Mohammed Al-Sayed in the first two boards.

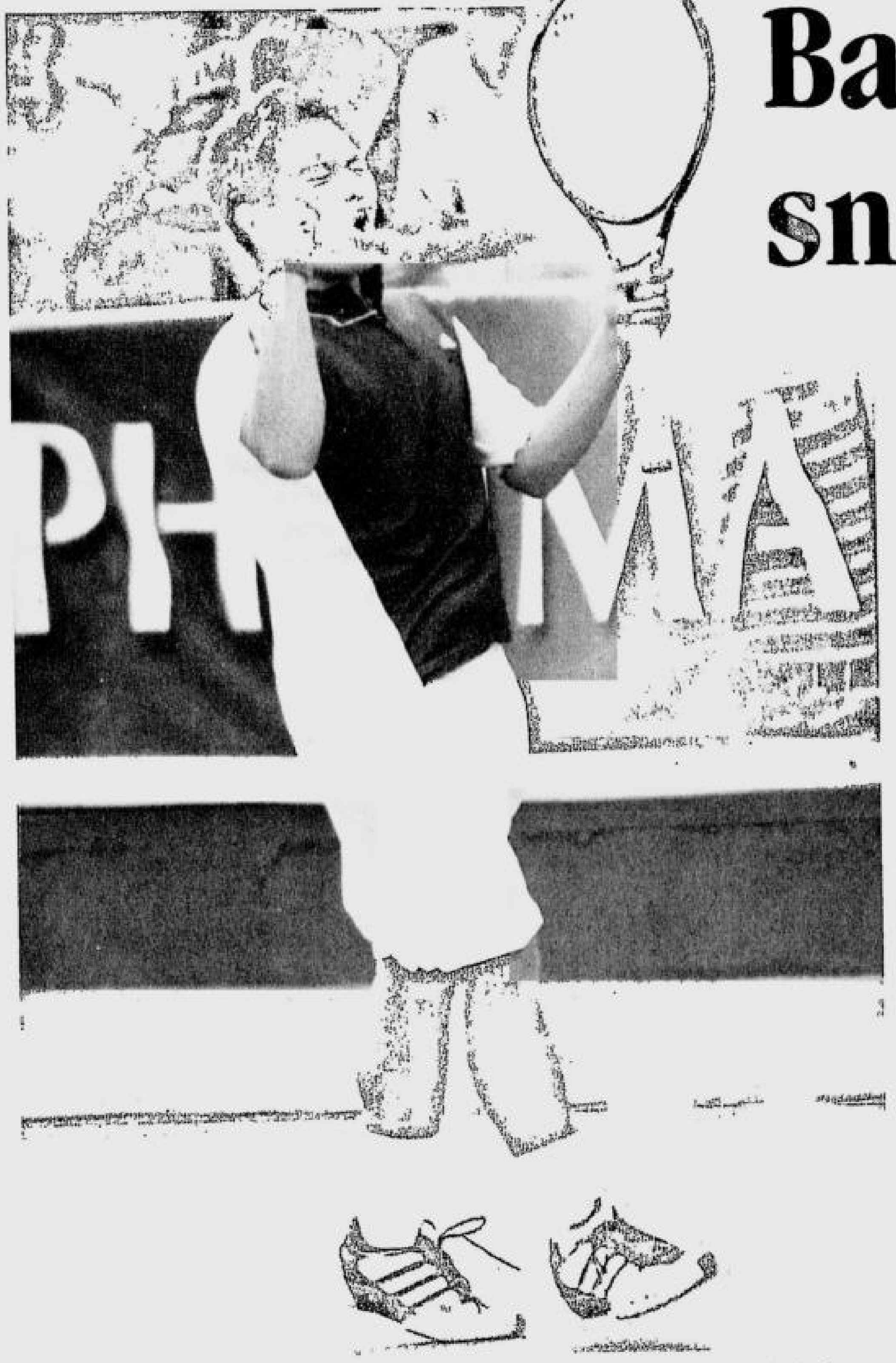
Qatar struck back with former world champion GM Zhu Chen's victory over GM Koneru Humpy in the women's encounter. Humpy bagged the gold medal in the rapid chess competition.

Seventh seed Vietnam edged No. 6 Uzbekistan, 2-1, on victory by GM Nguyen Anh Dung over GM Alexie Barsov on board two. GM Dao Thien Hai of Vietnam and former world champion GM Rustam Kasidzhanov of Uzbekistan drew their match as did WGM Nguyen Thi Than An and WIM Olga Sabirova.

No. 8 Indonesia blanked Bangladesh, 3-0, while second seed China overpowered No. 5 Iran, 2.5-.5 to join Qatar in third to fifth places with 6.5 points. Uzbekistan is in solo sixth with six points. Mixed teams from 21 countries are seeing action in the nine-round competition which ends Dec. 15. Each point counts since the final standings are based on game points.

"We still have a chance for a medal. But the players have to play well against the top players in the coming rounds," said National Chess Federation of the Philippines director Wilfredo Abalos.

Barte repels Suzuki, snares ITF Jrs crown



RALPH Kevin Barte exults after beating Toshiya Suzuki of Japan, 6-3, 6-6, 6-5 in the boy's singles finals at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center yesterday. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

By Marc Anthony Reyes

RALPH KEVIN BARTE PUT A FITTING FINALE TO A **brilliant week yesterday.**

When everybody was looking elsewhere, the 17-year-old campaigner dislodged the heavyweights and capped his amazing run with a stunning victory over gritty Japanese Toshiya Suzuki to capture the Phinma-ITF Juniors Championships Week 2 boys' singles title at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Showing the brand of game that many didn't expect from him, Barte dominated the first set before putting his killer instinct in full view to defeat the unseeded Suzuki, 6-3, 7-6 (5), in a little over one hour.

The victory – the first in his young career -- put Barte in the same level as top-seeded compatriot Kyle Joshua Dandan who won the initial phase last week but fell victim to Suzuki in the semifinals.

Dandan is the only Filipino player here with a world junior ranking at 173.

"I don't know what to say, I'm just very happy this is a very meaningful championship for me," said Barte who finished high school through home study and left his native Davao City to re-boot his tennis career here in Manila.

Armed with powerful forehands and quick decision-making, Barte was part of the junior Davis Cup team two years ago and started campaigning in ITF tourneys in 2002.

That all came to a head when he stormed to a 5-4 lead in the second set only to see the Japanese, ranked 978th in the world juniors, creep from behind to post a 6-5 lead.

"I got a little over confident and was really looking at finishing the match early," recalled Barte.

Yet instead of getting rattled by Suzuki's gutsy stand, Barte fought him off from the baseline, steadily bringing the ball to the Japanese's weak side to force a tie-break and prevent a potentially disastrous third set.

On the way to the championship, Barte had shared the limelight with Dandan by beating second seed Korean Choi Jae-Won, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, in the second round and fourth-seeded Japanese Yuki Matsuo, 5-7, 6-4, 7-5, in the semis.

Second-seeded Elizaveta Titova, from Sochi, Russia, outlasted unseeded Korean Kun Hee Kim, 6-4, 6-4, to nail the girls' singles title.

Titova, 17, made it a double after pairing with 14-year-old Nadezda Guskova to edge second seeds Jessica Agra of the Philippines and Jawariah Noordin of Malaysia, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1, for the girls doubles title.

The Russian girls also won the doubles last week over Agra and Japanese Misa Adachi in Pasig City last week.

Guskova, the last week's singles champion, this won her fifth doubles title this year, winning in tournaments in Russia, Belgium and Bulgaria with different partners.

Top seeds Martin Studeny of Czech Republic, runner up to Dandan in the singles final last week, and Japanese Yuki Matsuo clinched the boys' doubles title over fourth seeds Liang Chi Huang and Jui Chen Hung of Chinese Taipei, 6-2, 6-4.

Spring-Tagaytay five drubs Osmena-Cebu, gains semis

SPRING-TAGAYTAY TROUNCED OSMEÑA-Cebu, 67-51, Friday night to clinch the first semifinals slot in the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament at the San Juan gymnasium.

After failing to capitalize on their twice-to-beat advantage by losing 58-64 Thursday, the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and league EVP and Mayor Bambol Tolentino bounced back with fury to seal a semifinals date with the winner between North Cotabato and Valencia.

Danny Capobres waxed hot in the payoff period, drilling in 10 of his 16 points highlighted by back-to-back triples to give Spring a decisive 55-40 spread with 5:22 to go.

Billy Moody and Niño Marquez tried to turn things around, rallying former senator John Osmeña's team within eight, 47-55, in the last two minutes.

But that proved to be the Cebuano's last stand as Capobres fired two more triples before Nani Epondulan and Mar Reyes sealed the contest.

Valencia and North Cotabato are playing at press time yesterday.

The scores:

SPRING-TAGAYTAY 67—Capobres 16, Epondulan 16, Mallari 8, Reyes 7, Tajonera 6, Neo 4, Genido 3, Morante 3, Guiyab 2, Yambao 2, Finuliar 0, Barnson 0.

OSMEÑA-CEBU 51—Moody 13, Marquez 10, Legaspi 10, Reguera 7, Espiritu 6, De Castro 5, Santos 0, Hardin 0, Zablan 0.

Quarters: 17-18, 31-27, 39-33, 67-51

Third sweep for Nike bets

ABABA

BAGUIO CITY—NIKE-PACSPORTS COMPLETed a sweep of the 57th Fil-Am Invitational yesterday, closing out hostilities in the same brutal manner it opened its "three-peat" bids in two varying courses here.

Mark Fernando, an ex-caddy from Zamboanga, sizzled with a one-under-par 60 at the tough the Country Club for 37 points that paced the final day 137 of Nike's Fil team which encountered little opposition from Southwoods.

First National Caddies' Open champion Jonel Ababa contributed 35 and Joseph Labajo assembled a 34 to go with Jun Bernis' 31 as Nike totaled 570 for a 23-point victory over the Carmona-based squad.

Dave Hernandez and Rufino Bayron fired identical one-under 68s for 37 points over at John Hay as Nike formally closed out Am action with a 64-point demolition also of Southwoods.

"What we saw is the face of the Nike team in the years to come," non-playing skipper Tommy Manotoc told the INQUIRER. "These guys have shown that they are ready to play big-time golf. It's just a matter of time before they conquer even greater odds."

The Fil team's margin of victory is one of the largest in the history of the Fil-Am, and the second biggest since Nike started its dominance in 2004 with a team built around 2006 Asian Tour Rookie of the Year Juvic Pagunsan.

"For Fil action, 23 points are quite big," Manotoc added. "And these players can only get better with the training routine they have."

"We offer no excuses. They (Nike teams) played extremely well and deserved to win," Southwoods captain Thirdy Escano said. "We'll just have to come back stronger next year."

Former jungolf ace Tonlits Asistio shot 34, Anthony Fernando and Jong Laput turned in 33s and Miko Alejandro 32 for 132 and a 547 aggregate for Southwoods.

Way behind at third spot with 499 points was the Del Monte Golf Team followed by Mizuno Golf with 494 and Eastridge Golf Club 486.

Jessie Balasbas was good for 33 points and Mario Labajo's 32 rounded out Am scoring for Nike even as Gino Bunyi tallied 31 markers to pace Southwoods.

Ramontito Garcia and Jun Jun Plana managed 29s and Justine Tambunting turned in 27 for the Southwoods team's 116 and 483 Am action total.

WPTGA finished with 412 points and captured third spot over Eastridge Golf Club, which tallied 411.

Final standings of other divisions:

Fil Flight A—Team Nueva Ecija (473), Forest Hills (456), Camp Aguinaldo (443), Team Club Marinduque (429), Baguio-City of Pines I (424), Philippine Navy (420), Sherwood Hills (418), Camp John Hay (414), Crystal Dew (406), Ram Masters (401), Golden Oats (391), Mikey's Bar I (371), Fil-Am Diego (328).

Fil Flight B—Hickam Mamala Bay (400), Ultralite (398), AAV-Robros-Ventureslink (380), Dughong Bughaw (373), Villa Cacho (371), Baguio-City of Pines II (366), Pines Golf of California (360), Guam Kool Swingers (359), Silicon Valley Golfers Link (356), Eagles Club (348), Macabud (339), Fil Golfers of Honolulu (327), Pacific Rim (325), Champirik (317), Team Brassie of Nueva Ecija (269).

Fil Flight C—Capitol Hills (362), Davao Eaglemasters (347), Greenwater Meadows (342), Tori Polies (336), Veterans Golf Club (314), Greenwater Meadows @ NE Bibak USA (312), Batch 92 (308), PMA Cavaliers (300), City Mortgage of Hawaii (299), Seoul Survivors (294), Northwest Flyers (284), Yokosan (281), NBI (279), Fil Golfers of Hawaii (251), Hawaiian Golf club (246), Last Round (245), Fil Golfers of New York (163).

Am Flight A—Camp John Hay (409), Camp Aguinaldo (395), Sherwood Hills (381), Forest Hills (379), Mikey's Bar II (362), Team Isabela (349), Philippine Navy (346), Benguet Corp. (344), Team LA (339), Monterey (302), Bulakenos Golf (300), Fairways and Bluewater (290), Ram Masters (248), Pugad Lawin/Subic Loft (244).

SPORTSWATCH

Domingo retains bantam crown

PHILIPPINE BANTAMWEIGHT CHAMPION MICHAEL DOMINGO RETAINED HIS title with a majority decision win over Edgar Gabejan in the mainer of Friday night's 'Pound for Pound' card in Talisay City. Domingo started strong in the fight, but wilted in the middle rounds as Gabejan rallied. Domingo recovered in time to eke out a 115-113, 115-113, 114-114 win. World-ranked Bert Batawang of SGG Stable posted a one-punch knockout victory over Rey Orais at the 1:14 mark of the first round. Mark Jason Melligen came back from a first-round knockdown to score a second round TKO over Rex Marzan. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

Salpukan submission of weights today

PAMASKONG SALPUKAN 6-COCK DERBY PARTICIPANTS MUST SUBMIT ENtries today at the Makati Coliseum from 2-9 p.m. To be hosted by Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp., the event starts tomorrow with the first round of eliminations (3-cock). Other elimination rounds are lined up on Dec. 13, 16, 18, 20 and 23. A bonus of P100,000 will be divided per day among three pointers. The championship rounds sizzle on Dec. 27 and 30. Entry fee is P11,000 and prize is P3 million. Call 896 -3545 and 895 -6475.

Rambulan cockfest set Dec. 16

WITH OVER 150 CONFIRMED ENTRIES, THE CHRISTMAS RAMBULAN 6–COCK Derby unfolds on Dec. 16, 18 and 20 at the San Juan Coliseum. To be hosted by SJC owner R. Pineda, the cockfest dangles a prize of P2 million. Girding up for battle are members of the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines, Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association, SJC Circuit Club and derbyists from Central Luzon, Negros Occ., Davao, Cebu and Iloilo. Meanwhile, SJC's bigtime 4-cock derby with Johnny Yu as host starts tomorrow. Entries must be submitted today from 2-9 p.m. For info, call 725–5369 and 725–6563 or 0917–8264018 (Maan).

Cainta cockfest slated Dec. 21

A GUARANTEED PRIZE OF P405,000 AWAITS SMALL-TIME AND MEDIUM scale cockers on Dec. 21 at Cainta Fair Center Coliseum via the Super Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan. Host Sam Mendoza pegged the entry fee at P1,800 and minimum bet P3,300. The fastest win champion will receive P45,000 plus a brand new motorcycle worth P45,000, while the winning handler and gaffer will receive P7,000 and P3,000, respectively. The first 10 winners and last 10 winners will get P2,000 each as bonus. For inquiries, contact 655-3334, 240-0979 or 0928-6316711 (Arnold Amores). Also slated at CFCC is the New Year Encounter 4-Cock Derby on Dec. 29 with a prize of P500,000 and a brand new motorcycle for the fastest kill champion. Entry fee is P11,000 and minimum bet P5,500.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Cash McCall (4), Gentleman's Lady (6), Earth Angel (3), Ocean Dignity (2)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Kilimanjaro (1), Golden Song (4), Idol (5), Lord Brian (7)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Runaway Zero-Six (5), Mr. Love (9), Amazing Pace (3), Windtalker (7), Gold And Diamond (2)
Race 4—(/Tri)—Regal Bloom/Ziraz (2), Summer Gear (1), Thor Patria (5)
Race 5—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Unshakeable (2), Selectee (8), Modern Classic (7), Sea Of Galilee (5), Candy Magic (6)
Race 6—(Tri)—Gold Is Gold (1), Lucky Joe (3), Eye Candy (4)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Scud Missile (8), Amazing Firenze (4), Lucky Punch (3), Bumpy Johnson (5), Divine Diva (7)
Race 8—Nothing Impossible (2)
Race 9—(Qrt/Tri)—Raven (4), Farragut's Order (2), War Bird (7), Carbon Copy (6)
Race 10—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Nice Legs (8), Princess Camille (2), Dalcross (4), Alexis Magic (6), Mana Making (7)
Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Spanish Drums (3), Tonic Water (1), Bloodline (4), Nature Chef (6)
Race 12—(Qrt/Tri)—Heart Of My Soul (7), Maximus (6), Naman Naman (5), JJ's Friend (1)
Race 13—(Qrt/Tri)—Going Strike (1), Grand Fiesta (2), Ocean Cookie (7), Interceptor (4)
Race 14—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Golden Touch (1), Pivotal (5), Bold Lucky (2), Hard Way (13), Showman (12), Coat Of Arms/Courage Heart (7)

Pacman joining NCA tilt

AFTER KNOCKING out Mexican icon Erik Morales, boxing hero Manny Pacquiao is set to conquer the National Cockers' Association (NCA) World Championship Derby on Jan 9, 11 and 13 in Pasay City.

Pacquiao will contend with world-famous cockers from the United States, spearheaded by Dan Gray, Joe Wolcott, Larry Whitehead, Gene Bafia, Joe Sanford, Ric de Guzman, Jimbo Cox, Damon Yorkman, Andy Robertson, Red Lawson, Rey Morrison, Richard Borris, Chuck Halbert, Richard Lanier, Henry Navarro, Paul Pasot, Arci Coloma, Jason Campbell, Bryan Cochran, Bruce Barnette, and Crow Grave.

Among the Philippine bets are Ramon Revilla, Manolo Lopez, Patrick "Idol" Antonio, Jerry Ramos, Gov. Ito Ynares, Secretary Ronnie Puno, Jun Santiago, Edwin Abella, Boy Jiao, Ricky Valencia, Bebot Villar, Mario Villamor, Manny Santos and Art Sevilla.

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One small step in therapy, one giant leap to recovery

TEJADA PDI PHOTO

By Musong R. Castillo

PUREFOODS IS TAKING BIG STRIDES IN ITS bid to repeat as Philippine Cup champ.

Over in the United States, Eugene Tejada, the Chunkee Giants' inspiration, is starting to take those teeny-weeny steps in his own fight to get back to living a normal life.

The victim of the most horrendous on-court disaster in the history of the Philippine Basketball Association is responding well to therapy and could be up and about in no time at all.

Tejada, according to Purefoods team physician Raffy Sanchez, can already take four steps while in the parallel bar during therapy sessions and transfer from his wheelchair to his bed with ease.

This comes as welcome news to this basketball-crazy country, which watched in horror when Tejada lay on the Ynares Center floor motionless, his cervical area 5 and 6 broken after a fall in a game against Red Bull last May.

"His disposition has changed a lot," Sanchez told the INQUIRER over the phone. "He's happy now. You can feel it in the way he talks."

The 24-year-old Fil-American prospect has reportedly regained some of the strength in his upper body, traveling from one place to the next unassisted in his wheelchair.

Tejada does therapy in his home in Hayward, California, about a 30-minute drive to the Sta. Clara Community Hospital where he goes to for a routine check up twice a week.

So much improvement has been achieved that Tejada promised the good doctor of returning to the Philippines after New Year and be the Giants' No. 1 cheerleader when the tournament reaches playoff peak.

"Eugene wants everyone (PBA fans) to know that he is doing well," Sanchez added. "He also wants to thank those who have kept on praying and have given him support through the hard times."

Back here, the Giants are Eugene's biggest rooters, with the team stitching his No. 33 on the part of their jerseys just above their hearts.

The team, which is in prime position of nailing an automatic semifinal berth, also does not forget to say its prayers to start and end practice and games.

And the Good Lord seems to have taken a liking to the Giants and Tejada with the way things have shaped up of late.

Gawang Pinoy, Galing Pinoy!

15th ASIAN GAMES DOHA 2006 Dec. 1-15, 2006

AI era comes to an end

AFTER 11 years, The Sixers are ready to close their Allen Iverson chapter. The superstar demanded a trade last week and may get his wish. He was barred from playing against the Wizards Friday and told no longer to report to the team. AP

Philadelphia puts grumbling star Iverson on trading block

PHILADELPHIA—ALLEN IVERSON'S 11-YEAR CAREER IN Philadelphia appears to be over after he was excluded from the line-up as the 76ers were routed, 113-98, by the Washington Wizards on Friday.

The superstar guard last week demanded a trade and owner Ed Snider said he was more than willing to accommodate him.

Snider said Friday he would not hesitate to ship out the four-time scoring champion.

"Allen did a lot of fine things for this organization and I wish him well," Snider said.

"I think it's time for him to move on and for us to move on as an organization and see where things stand."

Asked if Iverson would be traded, Snider said, "No question about it."

Gilbert Arenas scored 32 points in the crushing win, but the bigger story was the absence of Iverson after he earlier in the week told the Sixers he wanted to be traded.

Iverson was told not to report to the arena before the game and later released a statement through his agent Leon Rose in which he admitted that he expects his time in Philadelphia to end.

"As hard as it is to admit, a change may be the best thing for everyone," Iverson said. "I hate admitting that because I love the guys on the team and the city of Philadelphia. I truly wanted to retire a 76er."

A former NBA MVP, Iverson led the Sixers to the Finals in 2001, but the club has languished in the standings since then. He was the No. 1 pick in the 1996 draft and has played his entire career in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia (5-13) are heading for another losing season with or without Iverson, blowing a 20-point second quarter lead in their latest loss at the Wachovia Center.

The Wizards won their second straight road game after opening the season with a franchise-record eight consecutive losses away from home. They beat the lowly Knicks in New York on Wednesday night to snap the skid.

Caron Butler added 20 points and had 11 rebounds for the Wizards, while DeShawn Stevenson scored 17 points and Brendan Hayward added 12.

Chris Webber had a season-high 21 points and 10 rebounds to lead the 76ers, while Kyle Korver chipped in with 20 points.

COMPLETE NBA RESULTS: Detroit 87, Orlando 83; Indiana 108, Portland 95; Houston 92, Charlotte 62; Phoenix 116, Boston 111; Minnesota 110, Utah 103; San Antonio 111, LA Clippers 82; Washington 113, Philadelphia 98; Chicago 93, Toronto 90; Milwaukee 100, Memphis 94; Denver 123, Miami 107; LA Lakers 106, Atlanta 95; Seattle 94, New Orleans 74

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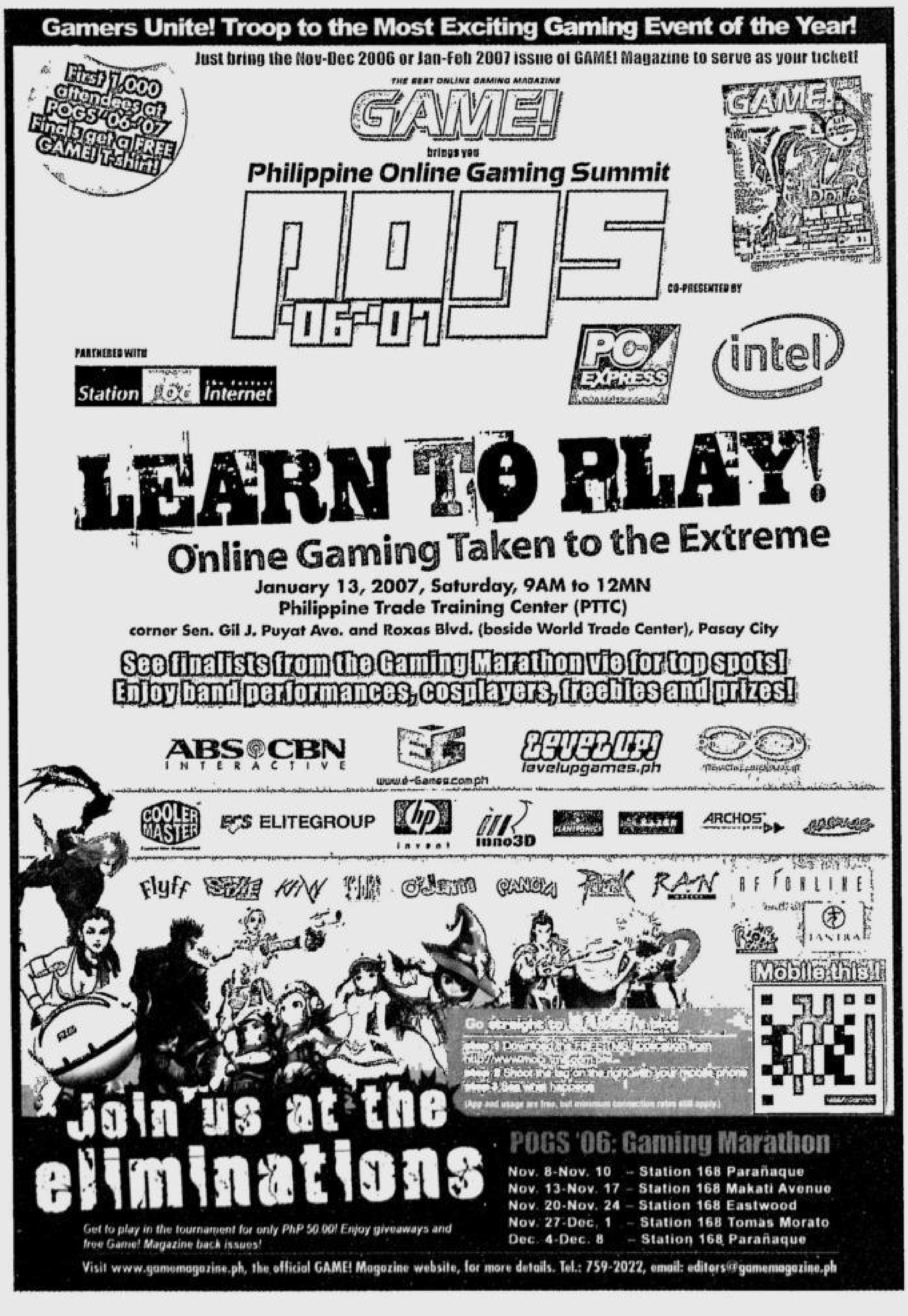

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Mail and More deals PCU its first loss; Comets soar

By Jasmine W. Payo

GAMES TUESDAY (*Emilio Aguinaldo College Gym*)
2 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Henkel Sista
4 p.m.—Magnolia vs Hapee-PCU

THE LEAGUE NEWCOMER PULLED OFF A huge upset with a big comeback.

Mail and More mounted an improbable run in the last seven minutes to hand league-leading Hapee-PCU its first loss, 66-63, in the PBL Silver Cup yesterday at the Olivarez College Sports Center.

The trio of Mike Bravo, Wynsjohn Te and Jim Viray took over in the final canto to lead the Comets' climb out of an 18-point deficit, 39-57, late in the third period.

"We started out bad, we just dug deep," said Comets coach Lawrence Chongson. "It was the resolve of the players, they never gave up."

Chongson also credited his wards' defensive game as the Comets held the Teeth Masters to only six points in the fourth quarter.

The Comets won by surviving poor free-throw performance at 54 percent and an even more atrocious field goal shooting at 26 percent.

Bravo topscored with 14 points, including a key layup and a couple of free throws in the last 45 seconds to ice the triumph.

The Comets strung up their third straight win with JR Quiñahan leading the way with 13 points, 16 rebounds, five blocks and four assists.

Despite the loss, Hapee-PCU remained on top at 5-1. Mail and More joined Henkel Sista at the second spot with 4-2 slates.

In the second game, Marvin Cruz nailed a layup with 1.2 seconds left to lift the Toyota Otis Sparks to a 90-88 escape over the Kettle Korn-UST Tigers.

The Sparks withstood the Tigers' late push behind Jay Sierra.

"We saw what's negative in the team, we tend to relax, but we also played a good endgame," said Toyota Otis coach Louie Alas, whose Sparks joined the TeleTech Titans at 3-2. The Tigers skidded to their sixth straight setback.

The scores:

First Game

MAIL AND MORE 66—Bravo 14, Te 13, Quinahan 13, Viray 10, Buenafe 8, Coyukang 4, David 3, Aquino 1, Pribhdas 1 Canizares 0, Del Rosario 0, Espiritu 0, Yambao 0.

HAPEE-PCU 63—Castro 14, Sanz 12, Larong 9, Moreno 7, Razon 6, Rodriguez 5, Belga 4, Borboran 4, Bucao 2, Butel 0, Hugnatan 0, Garrido 0, David 0.

Quarters: 15-26, 27-45, 44-57, 66-63

Second Game

TOYOTA OTIS 90—Daa 17, Cabahug 12, Jaime 11, Cruz 10, Rodriguez 10, Alcaraz 9, Coronel 8, Baluyot 6, Dedicatoria 4, Quinday 2, Guevarra 1, Fajardo 0, Yabut 0, Jazul 0.

KETTLE KORN-UST 88—Duncil 29, Sierra 13, Hubalde 12, Evangelista 11, Ababou 6, De Guzman 6, Urbiztondo 5, Cuan 2, Dizon 2, Espiritu 2, Taylor 0, Canlas 0, Santos 0, Dela Cruz 0, Cortez 0.

Quarters: 25-20, 46-39, 71-64, 90-88

Pangasinan launches one product program

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

URDANETA CITY—WHILE THE national government has its "One Town, One Product" program, this city has gone "micro" through its "One Barangay, One Product" (Obop) project.

Residents of 34 villages on Friday tried to upstage one another with their respective booths that showcased both agricultural produce and livelihood products during an agricultural and trade fair held as part of activities for the city's fiesta celebration.

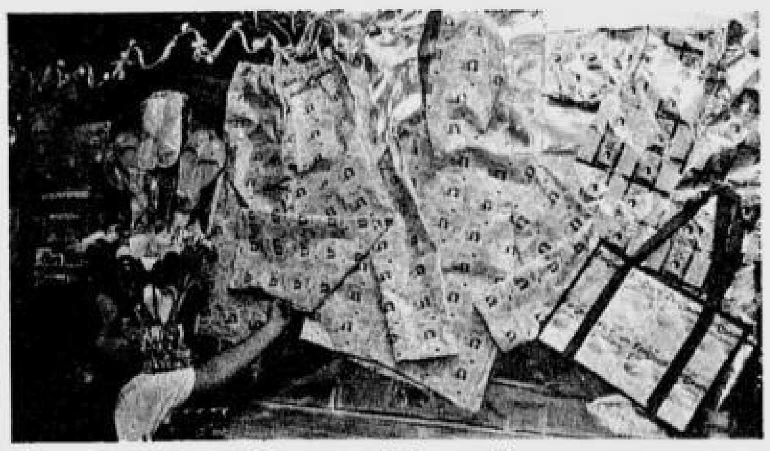
Mayor Amadeo Perez Jr. said the city government pushed the Obop to encourage residents to come up with unique products.

He said the Obop started sometime in 2000 when the city sponsored trainings on food processing, bamboo crafts, wood carving, metal craft, paper flower making and broom making, among other things.

The Department of Trade and Industry conducted the training on packaging and marketing while the provincial government took care of micro business finance management training.

Each village formed a group that underwent training, Perez said. But only 18 associations established micro businesses and each was given a P5,000 interest-free loan.

The associations, mostly composed of women (only three groups are composed of men), were able to repay and were given fresh loans.


USEFUL items created from recycled materials.
RAY B. ZAMBRANO/NORTHERN LUZON

But this year, the city government went aggressive and encouraged the other villages to come up with their projects.

Thus, all 34 villages have livelihood projects, mainly spurred by women residents and village leaders who belong to their respective associations.

"There are many residents who are unemployed. This is teaching our people how to earn a living. They are happy. Even with just a small capital they are able to make their businesses grow," Perez said.

The fair featured the versatility of the local products.

A booth showed colorful flowers made from used sheets of bond paper, newspapers, discarded plastic, candy wrappers and grocery bags. In another booth displayed brooms (*walis tambo*) made from local grass.

Another booth showed locally manufactured dishwashing products, fabric softeners and soap bars.

Many booths were filled with processed food (peanut butter, native cakes, preserved fish, processed meat, pickled bamboo shoots and katuray), woodcraft, bamboo and rattan products, woodcarving, pots and fresh agricultural produce.

Even residents with disabilities were given a chance to become businessmen. They were formed into an association and given a loan for a shirt-printing project.

Vice Mayor Charizzma Carancho said the city government helps the associations sell their products by bringing visitors and buyers to the backyard "factories."

She said the city has no distinct product, "so why not capitalize on the product of each barangay?"

She said the city planned to put up a "Pasalubong Center" where all products would be sold.

Cassava seen to become town's next major crop

FOR UPLAND FARMERS IN TIWI, Albay, the humble but versatile cassava is now becoming a valuable crop, thanks to a pioneering agribusiness project that introduced cassava farming to the community.

Last Oct., 30 tons of cassava were harvested in the barangays of Misibis, Libtong, Libjo and Bagumbayan to successfully culminate the full planting cycle which began nine months ago.

The project was initiated by Unocal Philippines Inc. (UPI) in partnership with the local government of Tiwi, Department of Agriculture, the Parish Social Action Commission, Pag-Mangno Inc. and Miraya Development Corp.

Aptly called "Kamoteng-Kahoy Ko, Kabuhayan Ko," the project involves an integrated agribusiness approach from production-to-processing/marketing. Farmer cooperators are assured of a market for their crops through the Miraya Development Corp., an assembler which uses the cassava as an ingredient for animal feed. Dried cassava is also used as key ingredient in the manufacture of liquor and packaging materials.

Initial implementation involved a core group of 17 farmers and covered 25 hectares of land. In the process, the farmers transformed and made productive lands that had been idle for the past 10 years, and generating income for their families at a most crucial time.

The harvest, which came soon after typhoon Milenyo struck the province, provided each farmer with an estimated additional income of P 2,636.25. The cassava crops also helped protect erosion-prone areas during the typhoon, according to Municipal Agriculturist Leonila Coralde.

Mang Abner, one of the farmers involved in the program, said that Milenyo destroyed other crops, but the hardy cassava was able to withstand the typhoon's impact. Also the harvest provided his family the much-needed supplementary food and income at such a critical time.

"It's a win-win program," according to Tiwi Mayor Jaime Villanueva, "because it makes good use of idle lands while providing farmers additional source of income." Over the long term, the project aims to utilize a total of 500 hectares of unproductive upland farms, and provide alternative sustainable source of income to approximately 300 farmer-households and 1,500 household-members.

"Cassava is a sturdy crop, adaptable in most types of soil, does not require much care and can be harvested depending on the farmers' available time and resource," explained Art Baria, UPI's Tiwi Asset Affairs Supervisor. "We believe that cassava production can be a major source of sustainable livelihood for the Tiwi farmers," added Baria who acts as UPI's project lead and provides technical and project management support to PSAC-PagMangno Inc. which in turn directly works with the farmers.

The project is also expected to provide additional employment to the community by creating allied industries in the farm inputs businesses, trucking and hauling, cassava chipping and processing industries, agricultural machinery design and fabrication, food and feed processing as well as animal and livestock production.

With the success of the first harvest, cooperating farmers are planting new cassava crops using the harvested stalks as planting materials. They are also encouraging fellow farmers in the area to join the program and help harness the town's idle agricultural lands. Ten months from now, the town is looking at harvesting from some 100 hectares planted with cassava.

Unocal pioneers cassava agribusiness project in Tiwi. The "Kamoteng-Kahoy Ko, Kabuhayan Ko" program, a joint effort of Unocal Philippines Inc. (UPI), the local government of Tiwi, the Department of Agriculture and the Parish Social Action Commission, targets to utilize 500 hectares of unproductive upland farms and provide an alternative income source to approximately 300 marginal farmers in Tiwi, Albay. The first cassava harvest yielded 30 tons of cassava from 5 hectares of previously idle lands in the municipality. UPI, which pioneered geothermal operations in the country, is now part of Chevron Corp., the world's largest private producer of geothermal energy.

Unocal pioneers cassava agribusiness project in Tiwi. The "Kamoteng-Kahoy Ko, Kabuhayan Ko" program, a joint effort of Unocal Philippines Inc. (UPI), the local government of Tiwi, the Department of Agriculture and the Parish Social Action Commission, targets to utilize 500 hectares of unproductive upland farms and provide an alternative income source to approximately 300 marginal farmers in Tiwi, Albay.

Filipina tasked to inspire Japanese women

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

OSAKA, JAPAN—VIVIENNE K. Tan, daughter of taipan Lucio Tan, was recently tasked to join top businesswomen from Asia to inspire Japanese women on the possibilities and potentials of women in Asia.

The problem Japan faces is an aging population and the productivity of women is deemed to be more critical than ever. The number of women who want to work in Japan is decreasing. At the same time, few want to have children.

The forum was spearheaded by Ohta Fusae, Japan's first woman governor.

Tan is one of the founders of the Entrepreneurs School of Asia, an 8-year-old school that requires its students to set up a business venture before getting a diploma. She was recently named one of the TOYM awardees for business education and entrepreneurship.

She joined five other women entrepreneurs in the "Women Pioneering New Business" session of the first Asian Business Women's Forum held last Nov. 29-30 in Osaka, Japan's industrial capital where companies like Panasonic and Nissin were born.

The other women included Times Group of China president Wang Xiao Lan, considered as the venture-business entrepreneur in Zhongguacun Science Park, the Silicon Valley of China. Another speaker was Akiyama Saki, president of Saki Corp., the second biggest robotics firm in the world, who started the company just 12 years ago.

In her talk, Tan traced her beginnings as a child of "one of the most accomplished business magnates in the Philippines running some of the largest companies in banking, manufacturing, airlines, mining, retailing, etc."

Despite this however, she said her life "was not necessarily a bed of roses."

She stated that while her last name opened doors, "traditions of our Chinese culture and belief system suggest that the torch be passed and leadership of the family empire be transferred to the eldest son. Acceptance and personal respect is not easily given to me due to my young age, female gender, second generation rank."

"Other people expect me to continue the legacy be being a "carbon copy" of my father. Although my own personal desire is to inject "change" in whatever industry I get involved in," she stated.

After her studies in the US and a short stint as a sportswear designer, Tan was called back to help with PAL after her father acquired it in the early '90s. But she only stayed with the airlines for two years.

She said the street kids begging for food that she saw everyday on her way to work had an impact on her.

"Being away in the US for 10 years veiled me to what was happening in a third world country like ours," she said.

She told the Japanese audience that 40 percent of Filipinos lived below $1 a day while 30 percent of Metro Manila was covered with shanties and slums.

"At that point, I wondered, "What could I do to help?"

She said her father has 200,000 employees but if you include the employees of businesses depended on Tan's companies, "my father would directly and indirectly be employing one million people."

"Imagine the impact of one entrepreneur to the whole country. Imagine more, if an entrepreneur like my father can be multiplied tenfold."

VIVIENNE Tan with Osaka Gov. Ohta Fusae holding the mango wine Tan presented her.

She looked at her father who employs one million people and said: "Imagine if I could multiply my dad 10 times? More entrepreneurs mean more jobs. Where can you find them? Are entrepreneurs born or made?"

Tan's conclusion is that entrepreneurship should not be a birthright of a few. "I believe entrepreneurship can be taught." Thus she set up a school.,

Tan cited that in the Philippines, 60 percent of new businesses are started by women but one out of 10 fail.

Prior to the The Entrepreneurs School of Asia, Tan and her partner Joel Santos, a venture capitalist, acquired a license for the Thames International Business School, a UK-based school, that allows local graduates to pursue further studies in partner school abroad.

Early this year, they decided to change the name to ESA, even pursuing a tie-up with the Zhejiang Youth College of China (ZYC), to teach entrepreneurship.

Tan's talk elicited reactions from the Korean and Thai speakers.

Woo Jung-mae, who developed original designs in motifs based on Korean traditional patterns, said twice during the forum that she will encourage Koreans to study in ESA. There are very few schools that teach entrepreneurship in the world today.

Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, chair of Toshiba Thailand Co. Ltd. and Thai Toshiba Electric Industries Co. Ltd., said during the press conference that she learned from Tan.

The other women in the forum related their own experiences in setting up their own businesses.

Akiyama for example started a business to be able to spend more time with her husband. She said she and her husband were then pursuing careers and hardly saw each other.

Nakamura Rie, president of Yume No Machi Sozo Linkai Co. Ltd., wanted to take care of her son so she did home-based consultancies. She stumbled upon the idea of delivering bento box meals because she would prepare her son's bento lunch.

Food firms' role in sustainable agri stressed

FOOD MANUFACTURERS, CONSUMERS and farmers should all take a proactive role in ensuring the sustainable development of the agriculture industry to ensure long-term quality food supply.

This was emphasized by Agriculture Undersecretary Jose Emmanuel Paras during the First Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform-Philippine Convention, a gathering initiated by Nestle Philippines Inc. (NPI).

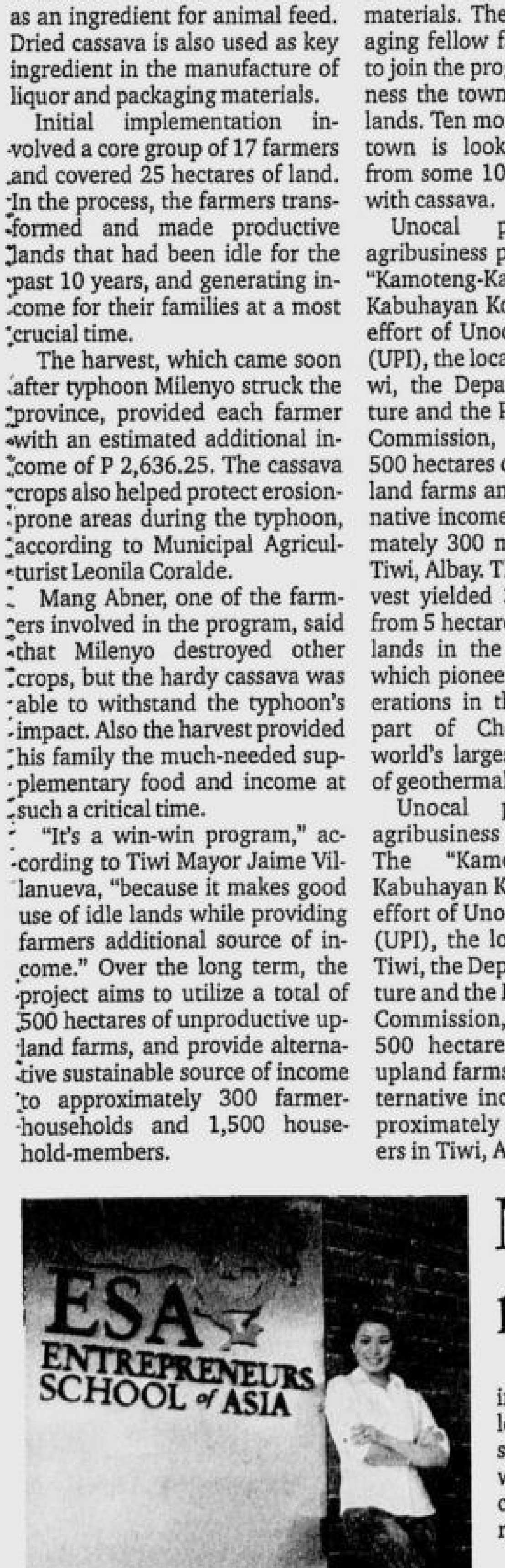
NPI's mother company, Nestle S.A. in Switzerland, is one of the three companies that founded the SAI Platform in Europe—a platform that has either already benefited or laid the groundwork for sustainable agriculture development in several countries.

The convention seeks to duplicate these efforts by bringing together the country's leading food manufacturers and government agencies and nongovernment organizations concerned with food production.

"Progress here and elsewhere has exacted a heavy toll on food production," observed Paras. "This is why we need to ensure the needs of the present without risking the needs of the future."

NPI CEO Nandu Nandkishore echoed his statement. "This is why we in the food industry should share practices and experiences that will ensure sustainability from an environmentally and economically sound point of view," he said during the convention.

The SAI Platform in Europe was founded by players in the food industry to support the development and communication worldwide of the need for sustainable development.



CAN you teach entrepreneurship? This lady thinks

Not quite the spoiled rich, kid

From page B1

Later on she realized she lost in the deal—her earnings were lower than her allowance. But she stood her ground and worked odd jobs—first as a receptionist, then in the backroom of an IT firm.

Asked why she wanted to work, she simply said "I didn't find any meaning in life at that time."

But soon she found a more lucrative job—tutoring math to rich kids in the Bay area.

She charged $20 an hour for tutoring done in school and $30 an hour for home tutoring.

One time the mother of her tutee saw the Benz parked outside and asked if it was hers. Knowing she will not get extra jobs if she says yes, she simply said it's her roommate's.

She recalls there were times she ran out of cash but she was too proud to ask her father. She continued to work until graduation. One time, to see if she can earn extra and to extend her stay in the United States, she even applied for a job with the FBI. Although she passed the first exam, she could not pass the interview part because she was not an American. The FBI would have provided her support during college and in exchange she would have had to work for the agency for five years.

It was not meant to be. After finishing at USF, she studied fashion at the Fashion Institute in Design and Merchandising in LA. With a partner, she set up a sportswear line using silk. They used a technology that removed the sheen from the silk and named it Vaju. Baju is the Indonesian word for clothes, she simply changed the B to V for her name.

It was sold in boutiques in California and she was already making plans for the new season's line when her father asker her to help with Philippine Airlines, which Lucio had just acquired.

That was 1995.

Despite the fact that she was COO—child of the owner, she could not hack the internal politics and intrigues in the airlines. Plus something was bothering her.

The poverty in the country bothered her and it occurred to her that the way out was for people to be employed. And the ones who will employ them would be entrepreneurs. So she decided to create entrepreneurs via a school.

ESA is the first institution in Asia focused entirely on the education and research of entrepreneurship. It also has a program to help micro-entrepreneurs where free classes are given to the poor to help them set up businesses.

At 38, Vivienne says "the story of my life remains unfinished. I know there will be other worthwhile endeavors in store for me." (This writer was invited to the First Asian Business Women's Forum in Osaka by ESA and the Osaka government.)

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Pangasinan launches one product program/B2

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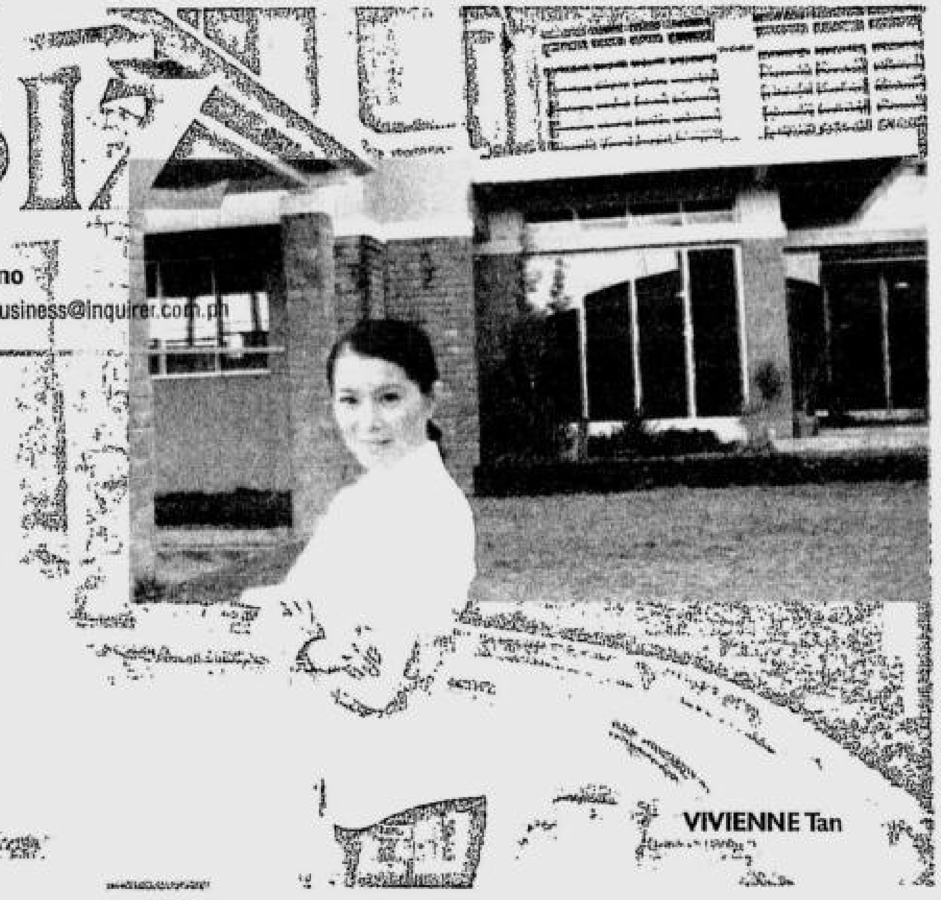
Not quite the rich, spoiled kid

Lucio Tan's daughter working hard to teach entrepreneurship to youth



VIVIENNE Tan

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

WHEN VIVIENNE KHAO Tan was seven years old, she caused a near panic in the household when nobody could find her.

Until one of the family's bodyguards looked up and saw a figure atop the three-storey water tank. It was the thought-to-be missing Vivienne, daughter of Lucio Tan, one of the richest man in the Philippines.

She recalls seeing the tank and wondering how it would be to climb it. So she did.

The image of a young girl climbing the 30 or so step-ladder of the water tank may be not be so off from her image in Manila society as a brat and spoiled child. But this writer's personal experience with Vivienne during a four-day trip to Japan, somehow painted a different picture.

She arrived at the airport dressed in a white shirt, jeans, boots with hair tied back. She, however, wore a three-piece diamond earrings and necklace that had stones as big as peas—the only piece of jewelry she wore throughout the trip.

She only had one handbag throughout the five days. And it appears she has been using the same one for a while. The bag was placed in the x-ray machine twice because the inspector discovered a tiny sword with a red string (which Tan says is meant to drive away evil spirts). She says she keeps forgetting to take it out of her bag.

And despite her slim figure, she loves food. She would still invite you out after dinner to eat.

Vivienne admits she was what others may call a problem child, but today she is proving to be a one-of-a-kind among the second generation of the wealthiest in the Philippines.

Unlike her contemporaries and even her siblings, Vivienne chose to strike on her own—in an arena where her father's clout may not be as strong: She went into the business of education. She says she did not tell her father of her plans. She first got a license for the Thames School of London and then this year created the Entrepreneurs School of Asia.

Today they have about 350 students, all geared to be entrepreneurs.

In a recent speech in Osaka, Japan, she stated, "none of my graduates will get a job, they will create jobs."

Tan acknowledges the irony of what she is doing now with her past. She admits she did not like school much. Which is why she says she knows how to deal with the youth of today. Tan had to leave St. Jude's School because she did not like its rigidity. She ended up finishing in a relatively unknown Chinese school called the Philippine Institute of Quezon City.

But her determination could also be gleaned early. Which is probably why Lucio and wife Carmen tolerated some of their second to the youngest daughter's mischief.

In elementary, she hit a male classmate who kept pushing her chair out of the line. The boy complained to his mom who went to the school to accost Vivienne, then a skinny little girl. But after the mother saw how tiny she was, she ended up scolding her son.

At age 10, she had her required piano lessons. But she only wanted to play the pieces she liked, not the ones the teacher prescribed. The teacher would refuse saying the piece Tan liked was for an advanced grade. However after learning a piece unsuccessfully for one year, the teacher allowed her to play her chosen piece. She memorized it in one week.

College proved a turning point in her life. She was sent to the United States after the Edsa revolution. Despite her dislike for school earlier on in life, she ended up with a double degree in Math and Computer Science at the University of San Francisco.

Her freshman year went by smoothly. She lived in her family's apartment and drove a Benz. Later she moved to the family mansion in one of San Francisco's affluent areas. But the family teacher was her chaperon who watched her every move. And imposed a 10 p.m. curfew.

By her second year, Tan must have imbibed some of the American ways because she sought permission from her father to work. Her father said no. She insisted. The father said if she works he will cut off her allowance.

She opted for the latter.

NOT QUITE/ B2

To. ~~Rico~~ ~~Kat~~ ~~Carla~~
~~Karen~~ ~~Jerry~~
Nina ~~Risso~~
From: Ted

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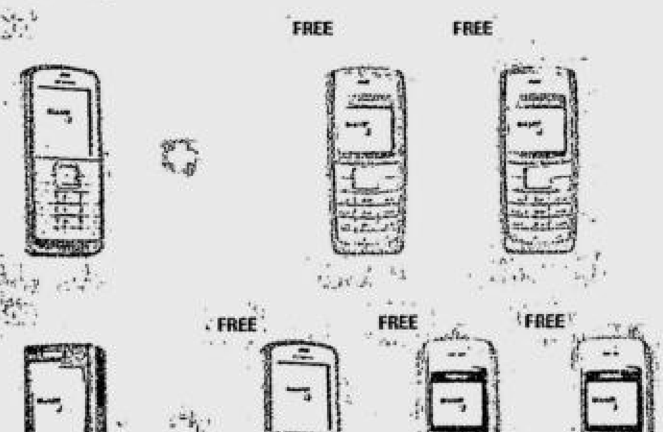


Pangasinan launches one product program

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

URDANETA CITY—WHILE THE national government has its "One Town, One Product" program, this city has gone "micro" through its "One Barangay, One Product" (Obop) project.

Residents of 34 villages on Friday tried to upstage one another with their respective booths that showcased both agricultural produce and livelihood products during an agricultural and trade fair held as part of activities for the city's fiesta celebration.

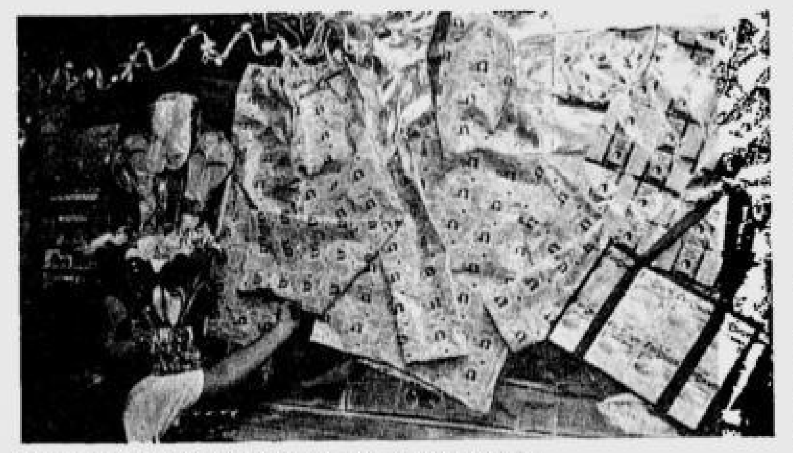
Mayor Amadeo Perez Jr. said the city government pushed the Obop to encourage residents to come up with unique products.

He said the Obop started sometime in 2000 when the city sponsored trainings on food processing, bamboo crafts, wood carving, metal craft, paper flower making and broom making, among other things.

The Department of Trade and Industry conducted the training on packaging and marketing while the provincial government took care of micro business finance management training.

Each village formed a group that underwent training, Perez said. But only 18 associations established micro businesses and each was given a P5,000 interest-free loan.

The associations, mostly composed of women (only three groups are composed of men), were able to repay and were given fresh loans.



USEFUL items created from recycled materials.

RAY B. ZAMBRANO/NORTHERN LUZON

But this year, the city government went aggressive and encouraged the other villages to come up with their projects.

Thus, all 34 villages have livelihood projects, mainly spurred by women residents and village leaders who belong to their respective associations.

"There are many residents who are unemployed. This is teaching our people how to earn a living. They are happy. Even with just a small capital they are able to make their businesses grow," Perez said.

The fair featured the versatility of the local products.

A booth showed colorful flowers made from used sheets of bond paper, newspapers, discarded plastic, candy wrappers and grocery bags. In another booth displayed brooms (*walis tambo*) made from local grass.

Another booth showed locally manufactured dishwashing products, fabric softeners and soap bars.

Many booths were filled with processed food (peanut butter, native cakes, preserved fish, processed meat, pickled bamboo shoots and katuray), woodcraft, bamboo and rattan products, woodcarving, pots and fresh agricultural produce.

Even residents with disabilities were given a chance to become businessmen. They were formed into an association and given a loan for a shirt-printing project.

Vice Mayor Charizzma Carancho said the city government helps the associations sell their products by bringing visitors and buyers to the backyard "factories."

She said the city has no distinct product, "so why not capitalize on the product of each barangay?"

She said the city planned to put up a "Pasalubong Center" where all products would be sold.

Cassava seen to become town's next major crop

FOR UPLAND FARMERS IN TIWI, Albay, the humble but versatile cassava is now becoming a valuable crop, thanks to a pioneering agribusiness project that introduced cassava farming to the community.

Last Oct., 30 tons of cassava were harvested in the barangays of Misibis, Libtong, Libjo and Bagumbayan to successfully culminate the full planting cycle which began nine months ago.

The project was initiated by Unocal Philippines Inc. (UPI) in partnership with the local government of Tiwi, Department of Agriculture, the Parish Social Action Commission, Pag-Mangno Inc. and Miraya Development Corp.

Aptly called "Kamoteng-Kahoy Ko, Kabuhayan Ko," the project involves an integrated agribusiness approach from production-to-processing/marketing. Farmer cooperators are assured of a market for their crops through the Miraya Development Corp., an assembler which uses the cassava as an ingredient for animal feed. Dried cassava is also used as key ingredient in the manufacture of liquor and packaging materials.

Initial implementation involved a core group of 17 farmers and covered 25 hectares of land. In the process, the farmers transformed and made productive lands that had been idle for the past 10 years, and generating income for their families at a most crucial time.

The harvest, which came soon after typhoon Milenyo struck the province, provided each farmer with an estimated additional income of P 2,636.25. The cassava crops also helped protect erosion-prone areas during the typhoon, according to Municipal Agriculturist Leonila Coralde.

Mang Abner, one of the farmers involved in the program, said that Milenyo destroyed other crops, but the hardy cassava was able to withstand the typhoon's impact. Also the harvest provided his family the much-needed supplementary food and income at such a critical time.

"It's a win-win program," according to Tiwi Mayor Jaime Villanueva, "because it makes good use of idle lands while providing farmers additional source of income." Over the long term, the project aims to utilize a total of 500 hectares of unproductive upland farms, and provide alternative sustainable source of income to approximately 300 farmer-households and 1,500 household-members.

"Cassava is a sturdy crop, adaptable in most types of soil, does not require much care and can be harvested depending on the farmers' available time and resource," explained Art Baria, UPI's Tiwi Asset Affairs Supervisor. "We believe that cassava production can be a major source of sustainable livelihood for the Tiwi farmers," added Baria who acts as UPI's project lead and provides technical and project management support to PSAC-PagMangno Inc. which in turn directly works with the farmers.

The project is also expected to provide additional employment to the community by creating allied industries in the farm inputs businesses, trucking and hauling, cassava chipping and processing industries, agricultural machinery design and fabrication, food and feed processing as well as animal and livestock production.

With the success of the first harvest, cooperating farmers are planting new cassava crops using the harvested stalks as planting materials. They are also encouraging fellow farmers in the area to join the program and help harness the town's idle agricultural lands. Ten months from now, the town is looking at harvesting from some 100 hectares planted with cassava.

Unocal pioneers cassava agribusiness project in Tiwi. The "Kamoteng-Kahoy Ko, Kabuhayan Ko" program, a joint effort of Unocal Philippines Inc. (UPI), the local government of Tiwi, the Department of Agriculture and the Parish Social Action Commission, targets to utilize 500 hectares of unproductive upland farms and provide an alternative income source to approximately 300 marginal farmers in Tiwi, Albay. The first cassava harvest yielded 30 tons of cassava from 5 hectares of previously idle lands in the municipality. UPI, which pioneered geothermal operations in the country, is now part of Chevron Corp., the world's largest private producer of geothermal energy.

Unocal pioneers cassava agribusiness project in Tiwi. The "Kamoteng-Kahoy Ko, Kabuhayan Ko" program, a joint effort of Unocal Philippines Inc. (UPI), the local government of Tiwi, the Department of Agriculture and the Parish Social Action Commission, targets to utilize 500 hectares of unproductive upland farms and provide an alternative income source to approximately 300 marginal farmers in Tiwi, Albay.

Filipina tasked to inspire Japanese women

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

OSAKA, JAPAN—VIVIENNE K. Tan, daughter of taipan Lucio Tan, was recently tasked to join top businesswomen from Asia to inspire Japanese women on the possibilities and potentials of women in Asia.

The problem Japan faces is an aging population and the productivity of women is deemed to be more critical than ever. The number of women who want to work in Japan is decreasing. At the same time, few want to have children.

The forum was spearheaded by Ohta Fusae, Japan's first woman governor.

Tan is one of the founders of the Entrepreneurs School of Asia, an 8-year-old school that requires its students to set up a business venture before getting a diploma. She was recently named one of the TOYM awardees for business education and entrepreneurship.

She joined five other women entrepreneurs in the "Women Pioneering New Business" session of the first Asian Business Women's Forum held last Nov. 29-30 in Osaka, Japan's industrial capital where companies like Panasonic and Nissin were born.

The other women included Times Group of China president Wang Xiao Lan, considered as the venture-business entrepreneur in Zhongguacun Science Park, the Silicon Valley of China. Another speaker was Akiyama Saki, president of Saki Corp., the second biggest robotics firm in the world, who started the company just 12 years ago.

In her talk, Tan traced her beginnings as a child of "one of the most accomplished business magnates in the Philippines running some of the largest companies in banking, manufacturing, airlines, mining, retailing, etc."

Despite this however, she said her life "was not necessarily a bed of roses."

She stated that while her last name opened doors, "traditions of our Chinese culture and belief system suggest that the torch be passed and leadership of the family empire be transferred to the eldest son. Acceptance and personal respect is not easily given to me due to my young age, female gender, second generation rank."

"Other people expect me to continue the legacy be being a "carbon copy" of my father. Although my own personal desire is to inject "change" in whatever industry I get involved in," she stated.

After her studies in the US and a short stint as a sportswear designer, Tan was called back to help with PAL after her father acquired it in the early '90s. But she only stayed with the airlines for two years.

She said the street kids begging for food that she saw everyday on her way to work had an impact on her.

"Being away in the US for 10 years veiled me to what was happening in a third world country like ours," she said.

She told the Japanese audience that 40 percent of Filipinos lived below $1 a day while 30 percent of Metro Manila was covered with shanties and slums.

"At that point, I wondered, "What could I do to help?"

She said her father has 200,000 employees but if you include the employees of businesses depended on Tan's companies, "my father would directly and indirectly be employing one million people."

"Imagine the impact of one entrepreneur to the whole country. Imagine more, if an entrepreneur like my father can be multiplied tenfold."

She looked at her father who employs one million people and said: "Imagine if I could multiply my dad 10 times? More entrepreneurs mean more jobs. Where can you find them? Are entrepreneurs born or made?"

VIVIENNE Tan with Osaka Gov. Ohta Fusae holding the mango wine Tan presented her.

Tan's conclusion is that entrepreneurship should not be a birthright of a few. "I believe entrepreneurship can be taught." Thus she set up a school.,

Tan cited that in the Philippines, 60 percent of new businesses are started by women but one out of 10 fail.

Prior to the The Entrepreneurs School of Asia, Tan and her partner Joel Santos, a venture capitalist, acquired a license for the Thames International Business School, a UK-based school, that allows local graduates to pursue further studies in partner school abroad.

Early this year, they decided to change the name to ESA, even pursuing a tie-up with the Zhejiang Youth College of China (ZYC), to teach entrepreneurship.

Tan's talk elicited reactions from the Korean and Thai speakers.

Woo Jung-mae, who developed original designs in motifs based on Korean traditional patterns, said twice during the forum that she will encourage Koreans to study in ESA. There are very few schools that teach entrepreneurship in the world today.

Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, chair of Toshiba Thailand Co. Ltd. and Thai Toshiba Electric Industries Co. Ltd., said during the press conference that she learned from Tan.

The other women in the forum related their own experiences in setting up their own businesses.

Akiyama for example started a business to be able to spend more time with her husband. She said she and her husband were then pursuing careers and hardly saw each other.

Nakamura Rie, president of Yume No Machi Sozo Linkai Co. Ltd., wanted to take care of her son so she did home-based consultancies. She stumbled upon the idea of delivering bento box meals because she would prepare her son's bento lunch.

Food firms' role in sustainable agri stressed

FOOD MANUFACTURERS, CONSUMERS and farmers should all take a proactive role in ensuring the sustainable development of the agriculture industry to ensure long-term quality food supply.

This was emphasized by Agriculture Undersecretary Jose Emmanuel Paras during the First Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform-Philippine Convention, a gathering initiated by Nestle Philippines Inc. (NPI).

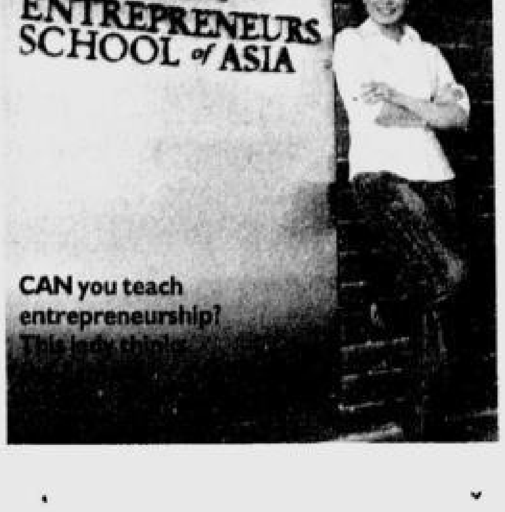
NPI's mother company, Nestle S.A. in Switzerland, is one of the three companies that founded the SAI Platform in Europe—a platform that has either already benefited or laid the groundwork for sustainable agriculture development in several countries.

The convention seeks to duplicate these efforts by bringing together the country's leading food manufacturers and government agencies and nongovernment organizations concerned with food production.

"Progress here and elsewhere has exacted a heavy toll on food production," observed Paras. "This is why we need to ensure the needs of the present without risking the needs of the future."

NPI CEO Nandu Nandkishore echoed his statement. "This is why we in the food industry should share practices and experiences that will ensure sustainability from an environmentally and economically sound point of view," he said during the convention.

The SAI Platform in Europe was founded by players in the food industry to support the development and communication worldwide of the need for sustainable development.



CAN you teach entrepreneurship? This lady thinks

Not quite the spoiled rich, kid

From page B1

Later on she realized she lost in the deal—her earnings were lower than her allowance. But she stood her ground and worked odd jobs—first as a receptionist, then in the backroom of an IT firm.

Asked why she wanted to work, she simply said "I didn't find any meaning in life at that time."

But soon she found a more lucrative job—tutoring math to rich kids in the Bay area.

She charged $20 an hour for tutoring done in school and $30 an hour for home tutoring.

One time the mother of her tutee saw the Benz parked outside and asked if it was hers. Knowing she will not get extra jobs if she says yes, she simply said it's her roommate's.

She recalls there were times she ran out of cash but she was too proud to ask her father. She continued to work until graduation. One time, to see if she can earn extra and to extend her stay in the United States, she even applied for a job with the FBI. Although she passed the first exam, she could not pass the interview part because she was not an American. The FBI would have provided her support during college and in exchange she would have had to work for the agency for five years.

It was not meant to be. After finishing at USF, she studied fashion at the Fashion Institute in Design and Merchandising in LA. With a partner, she set up a sportswear line using silk. They used a technology that removed the sheen from the sheen from the silk and named it Vaju. Baju is the Indonesian word for clothes, she simply changed the B to V for her name.

It was sold in boutiques in California and she was already making plans for the new season's line when her father asker her to help with Philippine Airlines, which Lucio had just acquired.

That was 1995.

Despite the fact that she was COO—child of the owner, she could not hack the internal politics and intrigues in the airlines. Plus something was bothering her.

The poverty in the country bothered her and it occurred to her that the way out was for people to be employed. And the ones who will employ them would be entrepreneurs. So she decided to create entrepreneurs via a school.

ESA is the first institution in Asia focused entirely on the education and research of entrepreneurship. It also has a program to help micro-entrepreneurs where free classes are given to the poor to help them set up businesses.

At 38, Vivienne says "the story of my life remains unfinished. I know there will be other worthwhile endeavors in store for me." (This writer was invited to the First Asian Business Women's Forum in Osaka by ESA and the Osaka government.)

'People, tools, partnership and passion to perform'

Pharmaceutical executive does balancing act in competitive industry

THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY IS A multibillion-dollar business. The race to discover new drugs, improving on existing medicine to relieve and cure diseases and ailments, and increasing people's awareness of these latest developments continue everyday—which is why it's no surprise that this business can be a challenging, albeit stressful one.

Yet Tito Tolentino, president of Pharmalink Philippines, has chosen to build his whole career in healthcare."My first job in the industry was as a medical representative for one of the leading pharmaceutical companies in the country," shared Tolentino. He moved quickly to various positions in product management, sales operations, marketing and business development.

Tolentino smoothly climb the corporate ladder. In 1987, he joined a multinational pharmaceutical company and rose to various positions including regional management for marketing in Asia based in Singapore.

In 1991, he got his first country management assignment in the Philippines and later appointed to start a company in Indonesia. Tolentino joined Pharmalink in 2000 to start the company's operations in Indonesia. After his stint as Pharmalink Indonesia's country manager, he moved back to the Philippines.

His experience in the healthcare business has truly equipped Tolentino with the knowledge and expertise that helped him build the Philippine operation. He also lives by four principles that guide him not only in managing Pharmalink, but in his professional life as a whole. These are "people, parameters and tools, partnership and the passion to perform".

"In any organization, the people are the greatest asset," said Tolentino. You may have the best product but without the right people to promote, it will end up to nothing "The kind of people you have will define the quality of the organization you are in and the quality of services you deliver to our principals." Setting parameters and tools is also important to Tolentino.

Likewise, Tolentino puts strong emphasis on partnership. "A 'partnership' fueled by strong team spirit among members of the organization and with business partners make it easy to deliver expectations," related Tolentino. Solid partnership with medical community and trade are also essential.

TITO Tolentino of Pharmalink

His passion for excellence in the industry he is in is what Tolentino desires to share with his colleagues. "Our passionate belief in Pharmalink will drive us to deliver the performance that is expected from us."

Leading a company that operates in a competitive industry can be tough and challenging, especially when it comes to balancing work and personal life. But for Tolentino, one of the first lessons a leader must learn is how to give up. "You have to give up more time for yourself and for personal endeavors. The time I have now is spent either at work or with my family and serving God."

While he may have given up on golf and tennis—two things he used to love doing—Tolentino nonetheless found ways to relieve the stress of a hectic work life. "I usually go jogging, and at home I have basic gym equipment."

Most admired pharma firm

NOVARTIS, A PHARMACEUTICAL FIRM, has been recognized by Med Ad News as the Most Admired Pharmaceutical Company for 2006.

It took a leap from No. 3 in 2005 to No. 1 this year. Med Ad News, a US publication in the global health industry has a readership of more than 16,000—majority of which are top executives within the pharma industry.

Novartis was set up 10 years ago. The organization is borne out of one of the largest corporate mergers in March 1996—Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz. Novartis is organized into four divisions:

1) The Pharmaceuticals division which focuses on innovation-driven prescription medicines;

2) Sandoz—a leading global supplier of generic pharmaceuticals;

3) Novartis Consumer Health which comprises OTC (over-the-counter), Animal Health, Medical Nutrition, Gerber (formerly Infant & Baby) and Ciba Vision;

4) Vaccines and Diagnostics—Vaccines and Chiron, the blood testing and molecular-diagnostics unit (newly acquired).

CEO of Novartis Pharma, Thomas Ebeling says "Being recognized for our rich and innovative pipeline, our portfolio of new medicines with blockbuster potential and our track record of strong performance is a testimony for the excellent job our associates are doing around the world. This makes me feel proud. These accomplishments are possible, thanks to you and your hard work. As we have seen in our last quarterly results, great products and great people remain the main drivers of our business success."

Benguet goes silk

From page B4

Memorial State University in Bacnotan, La Union, are the only schools in the country offering sericulture as a major field of study, she said.

But Donato said fund lack is hobbling the full growth of the industry. "We need top of the line equipment to process the cocoons into fabric in a large scale to supply a growing demand for silk fabric," she said.

Tabora agreed, saying that while Kapangan could produce the best silk, it still could not supply the domestic demand for indigenous formal wear due to the inability to process its cocoons for business.

Donato said Kapangan could cash in on an untapped market—government officials and employees who are required to wear formal attires made out of indigenous tropical fibers.

Kapangan's samples of formal wear were exhibited during the First Benguet Silk Fashion Show at BSU on Nov. 23 to mark the province's 106th foundation anniversary.

Clarita Prudencio, provincial tourism officer, Donato and Colting joined hands in tapping local designers who fashioned the silk materials for the show.

The models were public officials led by Benguet Gov. Borromeo Melchor, Vice Gov. Crescencio Pacalso, La Trinidad Mayor Nestor Fongwan, Leon and their wives.

Prudencio said 55 formal attires were paraded during the show and barong tagalog came in as the best in shape with its strawberry, kayabang (indigenous woman's basket), moth and solibao (indigenous drum) designs.

Fashion designers Narda's, Boyet Dysico, Wanda's Gowns, Tapps Ethnic Wear and Topskill showed their best silk designs.

Donato said 136.25 kilos of fresh cocoons were used to produce the fabric used for the fashion show. Kapangan, she said, could produce 75 to 100 kilos of cocoon every two months.

Eight kilos of cocoons can produce a kilo of raw silk which, when woven, can also produce 13 meters of fabric, she said.

Kapangan sells its cocoons at P130 a kilo. Buyers usually come from La Union since the DMMMSU in Bacnotan has weavers and loomers at its Sericulture Research and Development Institute.

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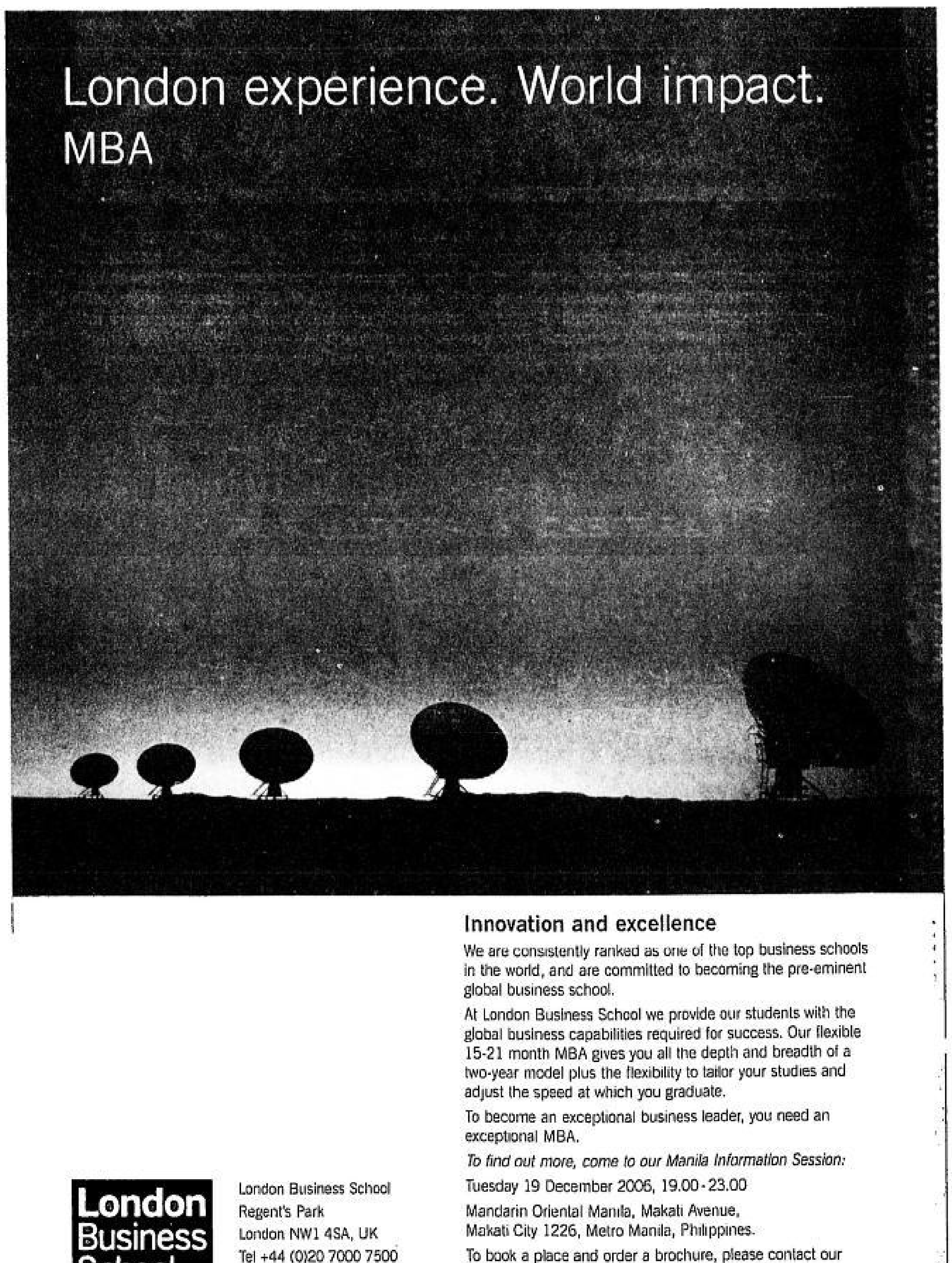

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Benguet goes silk

Text & photos by Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—This province's silk industry is still rearing its cocoon but given enough capital to loom its fabric, it could well dress up a wedding entourage in shiny silk fashion.

This early, fashion designers have raved over the quality of silk the province has so far produced, saying it is class A material.

The first batch of barong tagalog made this year easily caught the fancy of professionals who paid P2,700 for a piece.

Narda Capuyan of Narda's, producer of the popular "ikat," an indigenous woven fabric, said Benguet's silk could make a name in the market because of its "rare and smooth" quality.

What makes the province's silk unique is its being indigenous and "suksok," which any designer worth his salt will readily notice, she said.

Cynthia Tabora, owner of Heaven's Touch Planners and Coordinators, said: "Suksok meant the silk fibers were finely combed and well loomed."

This is the kind of silk that can easily create its own niche when marketed well in Manila's bazaars and fashion world, she added.

Kapangan is leading the province's 13 towns in cocoon and silk production. In fact, it has made sericulture its official entry to the Department of Trade and Industry's One Town-One Product (Otop) program.

Right now, 33 farmer members of the Kapangan Environmental Livelihood Multipurpose Cooperative are into cocoon-raising.

Kapangan Mayor Rogelio Leon said they are cultivating 10.25 has of mulberry farms, the main source of food for thousands of silkworms that would later become cocoons.

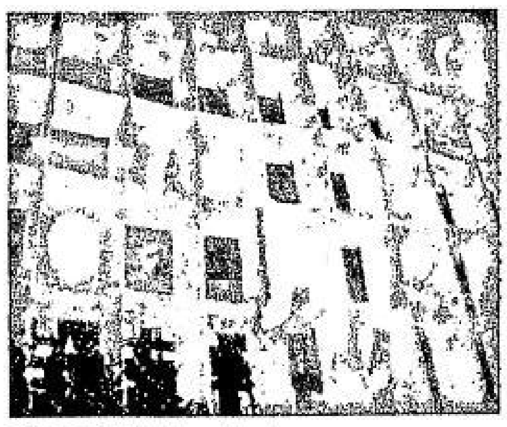
"It's a promising alternative livelihood for our farmers, aside from anthurium, yakon, kintoman (red rice) and cucumber," he said.

Fe Donato, head of the Benguet fiber office, said the Fiber Industry Development Authority (Fida) and the Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI) had been providing all the technical support to revive the industry.

Japanese volunteers introduced silk production in the province through the Benguet State University but the effort became dormant, said Lolita Colting, BSU professor and provincial tourism council chair.

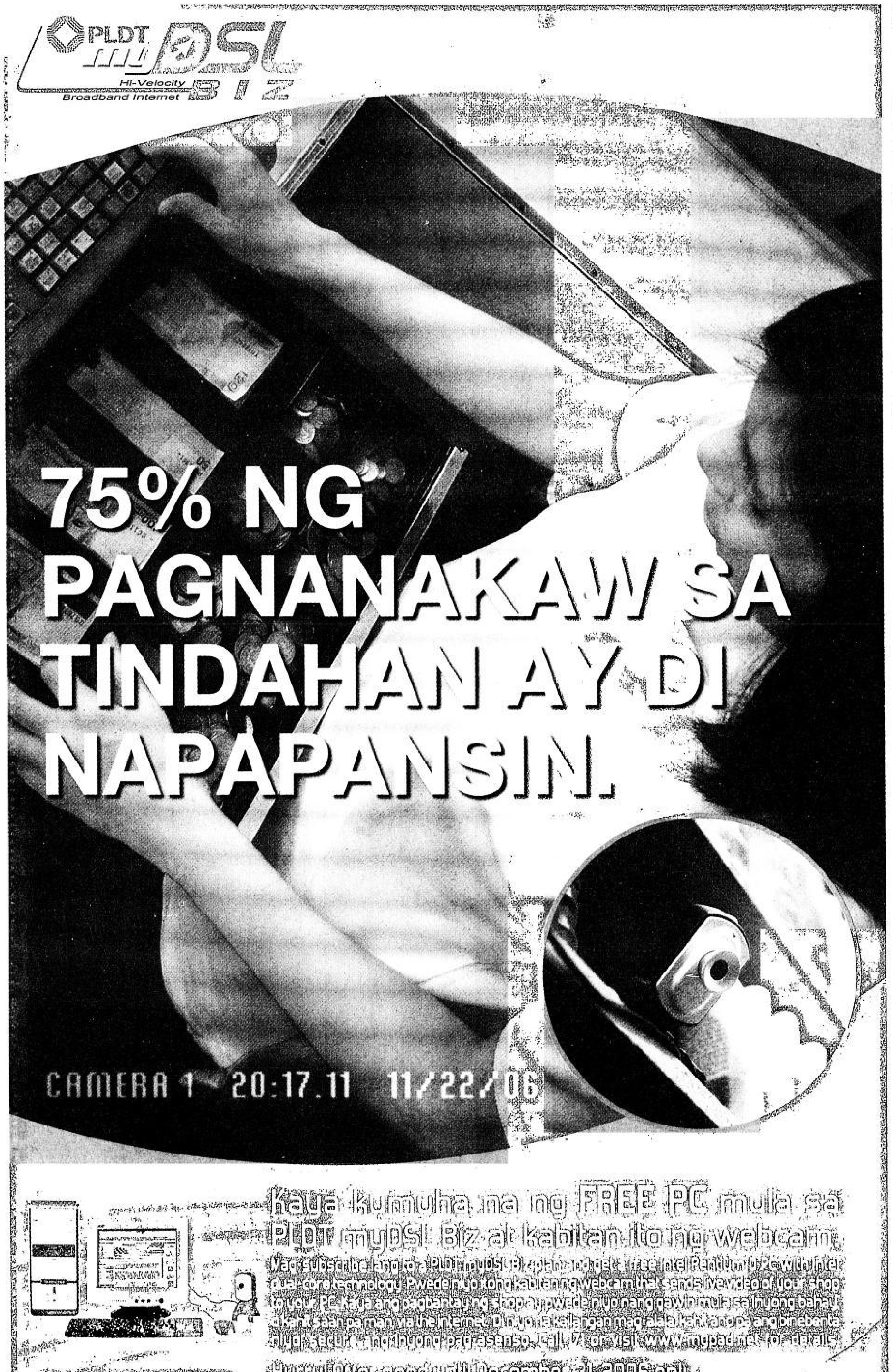
Today, only BSU and Don Mariano Marcos

BENGUET/B3



COCOONS being raised

DYED silk fabrics from Kapangan's silkworms



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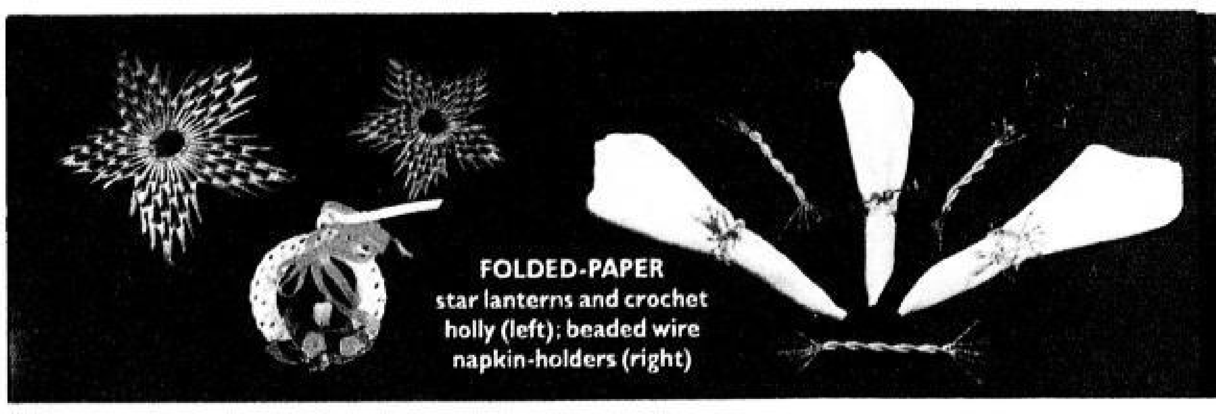
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIR

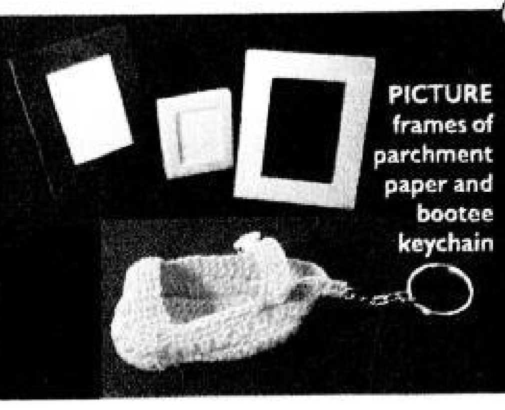
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

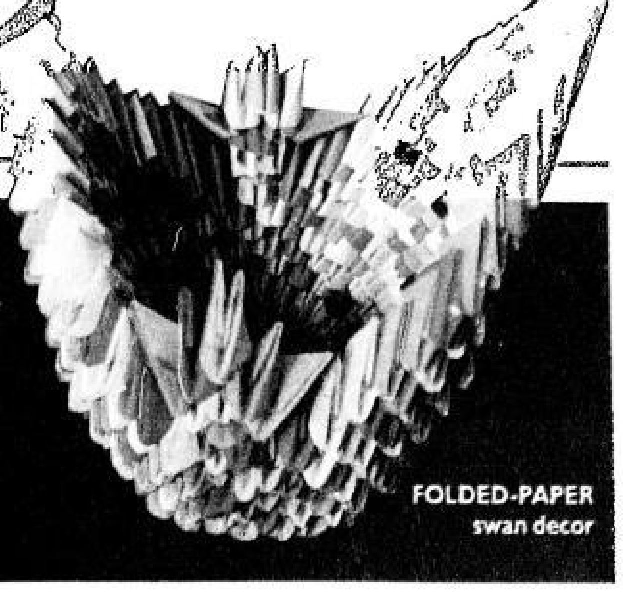
sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) **or email us at** lifestyle@inquirer.com.



FOLDED-PAPER star lanterns and crochet holly (left); beaded wire napkin-holders (right)



PICTURE frames of parchment paper and bootee keychain



FOLDED-PAPER swan decor

Gifting with meaning

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

Handmade products from a livelihood foundation are perfect gifts that foster the true meaning of Christmas

WANT TO DO SOMETHING meaningful this Christmas? Why not buy a napkin ring, a key chain or a necklace and feed a hungry family from the depressed areas of Paco and Pandacan, Manila?

Yes, whether it's a single or wholesale purchase, it goes a long way in alleviating the plight of families battling poverty every day, especially those with helpless children.

The Families and Children for Empowerment and Development foundation, Inc. (FCED) has been providing assistance to the poor through various livelihood projects in 12 barangays in Districts 5 and 6 of Paco and Pandacan, Manila.

FCED was founded in 1987 to respond to the needs of the growing number of street-children in Paco and Pandacan areas. The organization conducts education sponsorship and support, health and nutrition, early childhood development and family-strengthening programs.

"Our mission is also to provide opportunities for the education, skills training and increased income of street children, youth and their families," says Leo Bartolome, FCED livelihood coordinator.

The livelihood projects consist of handmade products. The crochet items are mostly done by women—*labanderas*, *tinderas* and jobless mothers. Their husbands and kids also help in the production by assembling, binding or painting the goods.

"They are being paid by the number of pieces they finish a day," Bartolome says. For instance, a person gets P28 for a completed Christmas star sold for P42.50 apiece. That's more than half of the retail price.

Training programs and seminars on handicrafts are held every so often in various barangays to update their skills.

Merchandise on sale includes intricately designed foot rugs for P650. All-purpose shoulder bags with floral designs range from P70-P250. Pretty napkin rings are P28 apiece.

Others: wine charms, P13; picture frames from recycled newspaper, P60; crocheted infants' bonnet, P60; key chains, P18; multi-hued throw pillows, P100 and above; and attractive beaded necklaces, P100-P250.

But what stands out among the handmade items are the specialty products created from recycled materials such as newspapers and the yellow pages. Rolled, woven, glued and painted, the materials are metamorphosed into decorative Christmas decor like stars in different sizes and colors, picture frames, letter container or holders and others.

The group offers its products either on consignment or per-order basis.

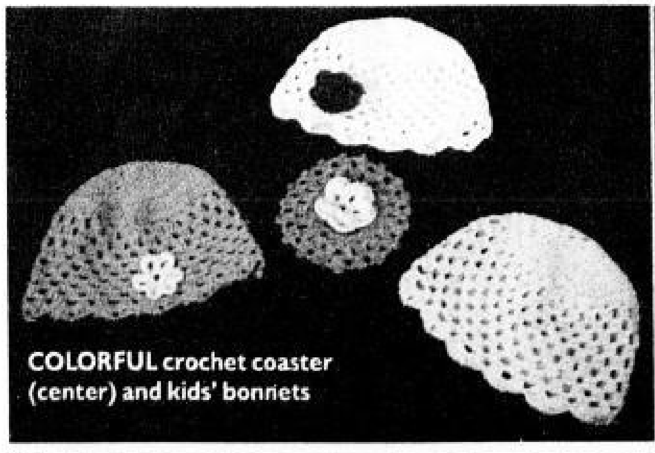
FCED office is at 1120-H, Mendiola Extension, Paco, Manila. Call 5626997 and 5891368.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

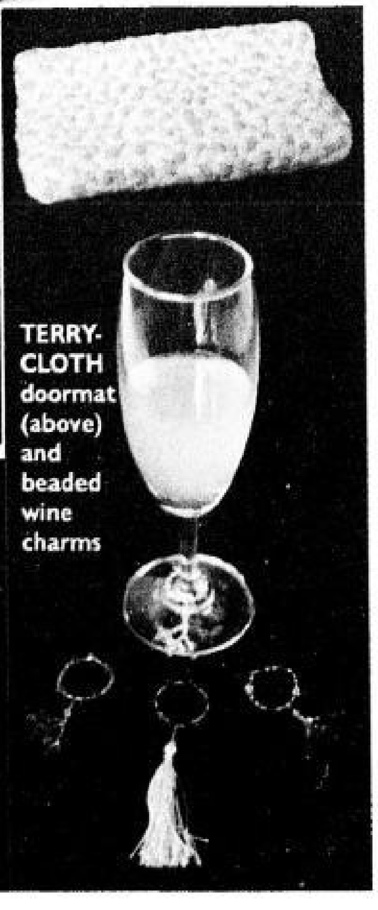
STYLISH crochet halter top

CHIC handbag of recycled material

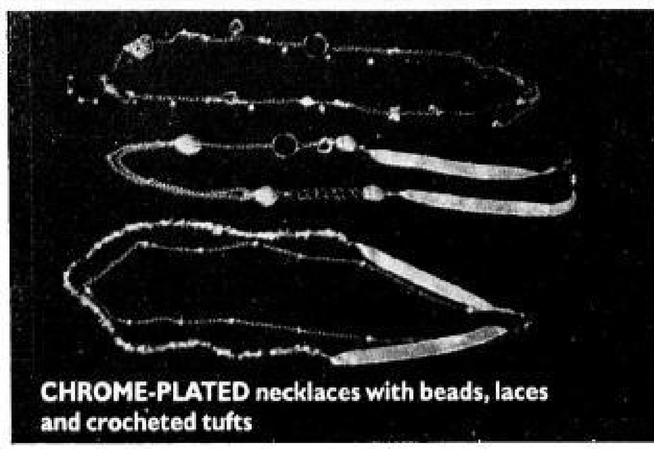
ALL-PURPOSE, carry-all bag with doily accents



COLORFUL crochet coaster (center) and kids' bonnets



TERRY-CLOTH doormat (above) and beaded wine charms



CHROME-PLATED necklaces with beads, laces and crocheted tufts

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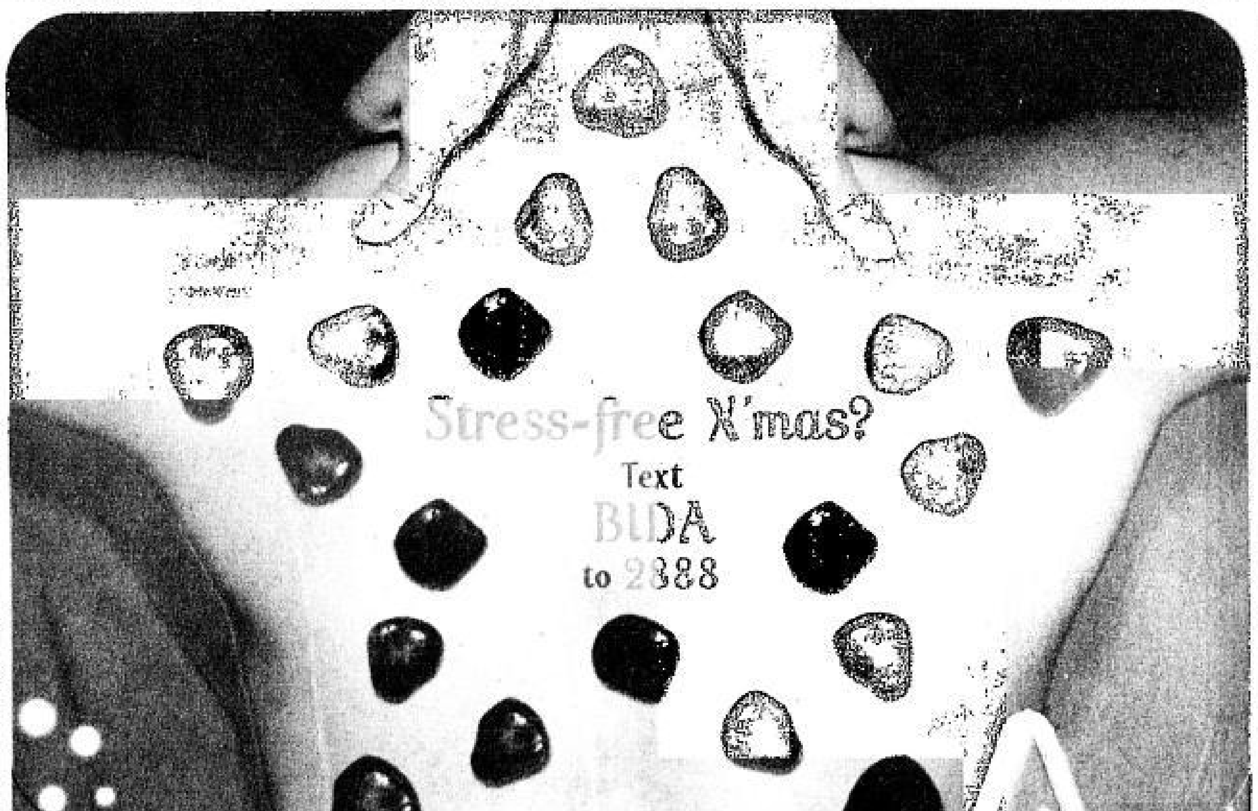

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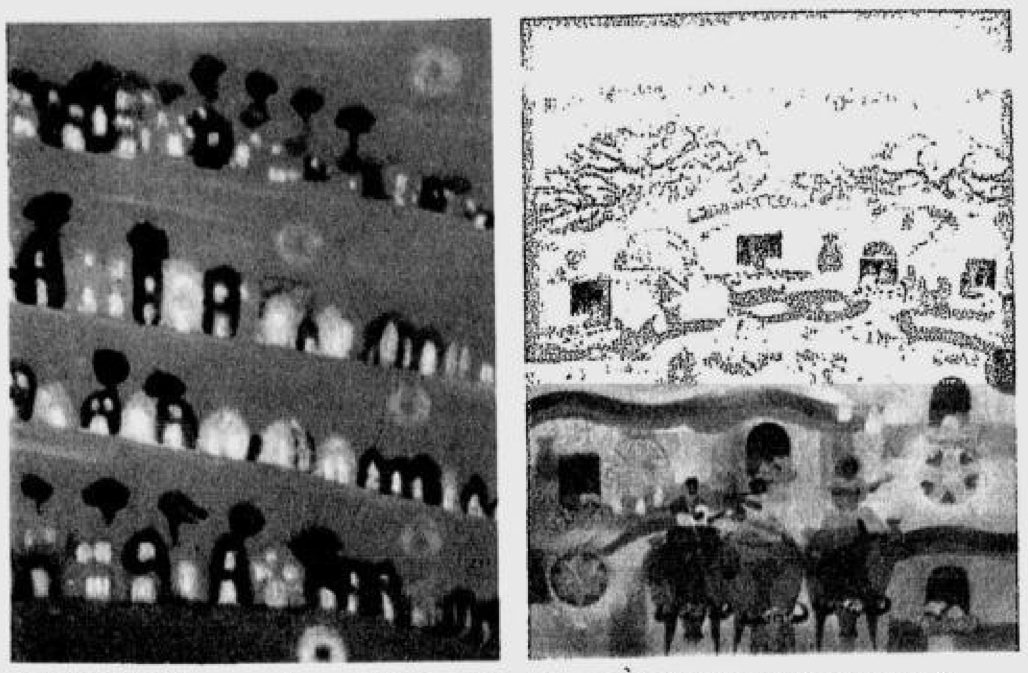


CHILDREN'S Hour greeting cards illustrated by Lizanne Uychaco and Manny Baldemor

This Christmas, it is not only easy to help others but also good for your heart

Wise gifts

By Constantino C. Tejero

CHRISTMAS IS NOT Christmas without the giving. That's a cliché, of course, but it carries with it the weight of centuries of spiritual wisdom.

In support of bright but poor children, Ayala Foundation's Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education (Centex) is selling merchandise this holiday season.

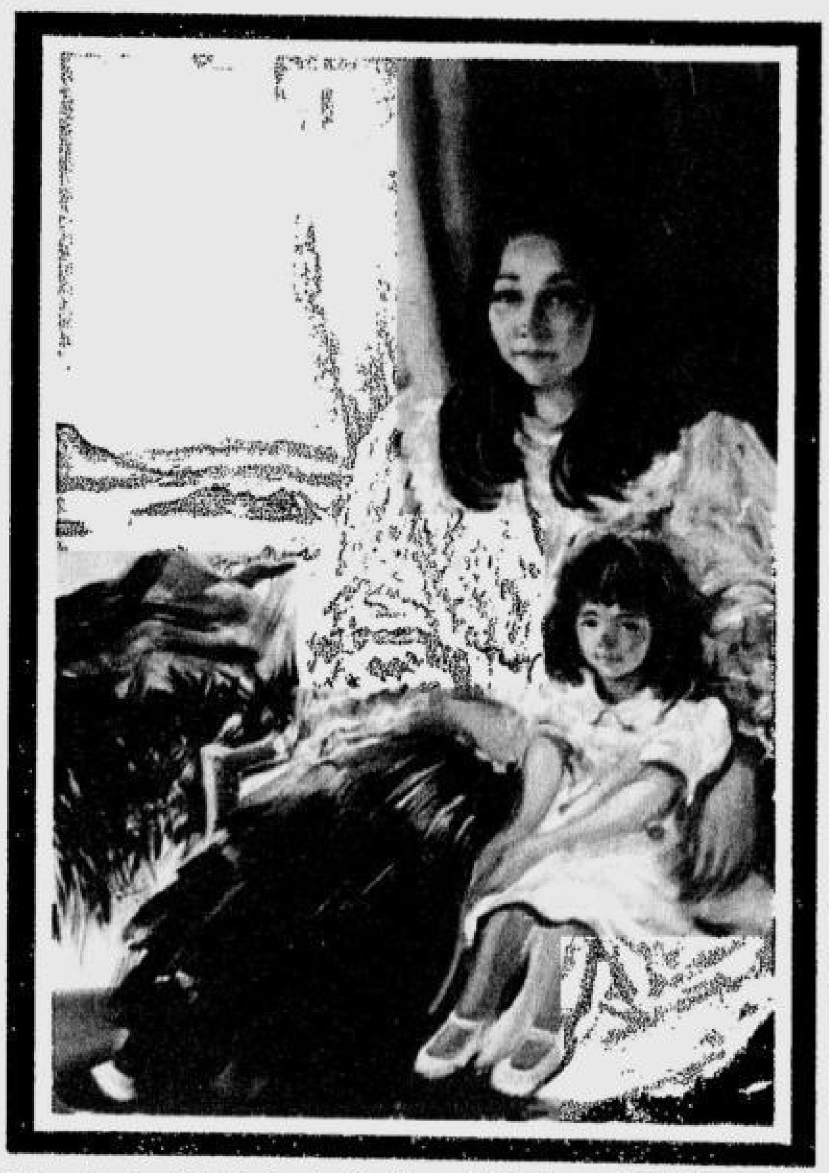
The main item is a Federico Aguilar Alcuaz artwork, "Mother and Child," a plate painted with a heartwarming image of maternal love. It sells for P3,000—surprisingly affordable, considering that it's an Alcuaz.

This image is reproduced on various paper items. A regular notebook, with cover in black, beige, white or yellow-orange, sells for P130. A pocket notebook goes for P50, while a memo pad is P75.

There are also note cards (box of 12 pieces) for P300; and gift tags (box of 12 pieces) for P60.

With the Alcuaz imprint, such humble stuff become classy items, whether as personal gifts or corporate giveaways. For orders, call Sarah Sevilla at 7521171, or you may visit the Centex kiosks at Glorietta and Alabang Town Center.

But why, indeed, deprive these talented kids from economically disadvantaged families and not continue supporting them even beyond the holiday season? Centex holds office at 10/F, BPI Bldg., 6768 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.



CENTEX notebook with Federico Aguilar Alcuaz's "Mother and Child"

Another such project is the one of Philam Life for Children's Hour Philippines, a full-fledged fundraising and grant-giving body that helps marginalized Filipino children.

Children's Hour has an endowment fund and it does projects for the benefit of children in conflict with the law; children involved in armed conflict; children of migrant workers; commercially and sexually exploited children.

This time it is selling Christmas cards with reproductions of colorful paintings, an untitled piece by Lizanne Uychaco and "Pasko sa Aming Bayan" by Manny Baldemor.

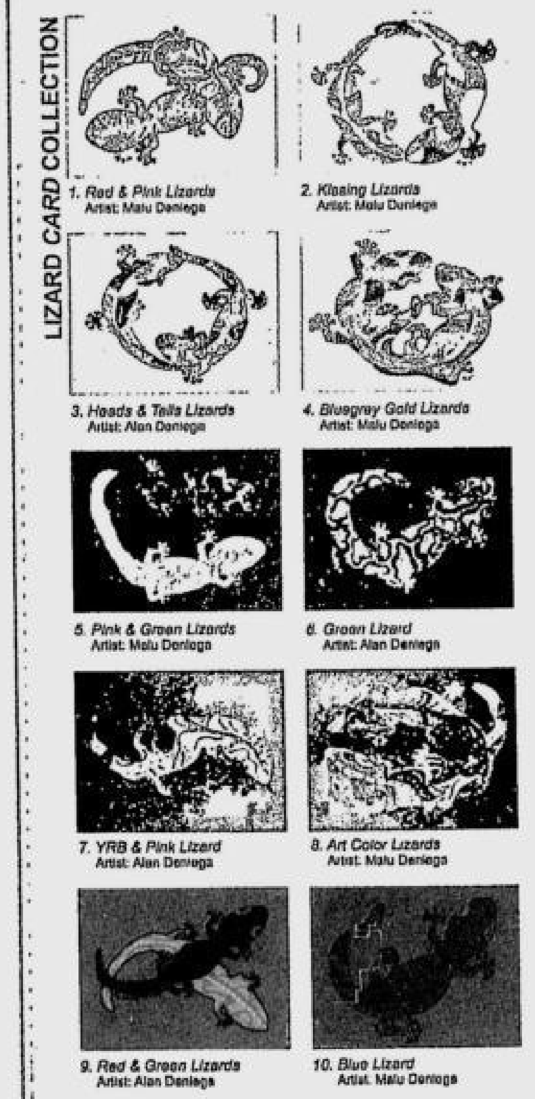
The greeting card sells for P25 and comes with P10,000 worth of personal accident insurance coverage for 30 days for the sender or the recipient. Call 7521180, or e-mail ask@childrenshour.org. ph.

Meanwhile, Pathways Philippines of the Ateneo also has merchandise to benefit scholars. This Christmas, it is selling coffee packs.

Call 4266001 local 4044 to 49 and ask for Solvie Nubla. Or visit Pathways Philippines at Alingal Hall, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC.

So get your pack of coffee now and soon you'd find it is not only easy to help others but also good for your heart.

LIZARD CARD COLLECTION



1. Red & Pink Lizards
Artist: Malu Deniega

2. Kissing Lizards
Artist: Malu Deniega

3. Heads & Tails Lizards
Artist: Alan Deniega

4. Bluegrey Gold Lizards
Artist: Malu Deniega

5. Pink & Green Lizards
Artist: Malu Deniega

6. Green Lizard
Artist: Alan Deniega

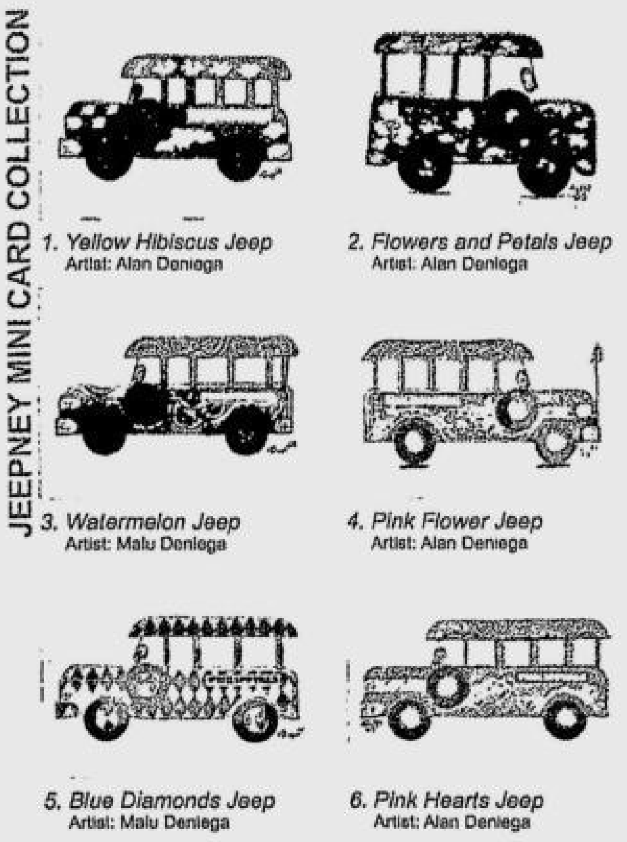
7. YRB & Pink Lizard
Artist: Alan Deniega

8. Art Color Lizards
Artist: Malu Deniega

9. Red & Green Lizards
Artist: Alan Deniega

10. Blue Lizard
Artist: Malu Deniega

JEEPNEY MINI CARD COLLECTION



1. Yellow Hibiscus Jeep
Artist: Alan Deniega

2. Flowers and Petals Jeep
Artist: Alan Deniega

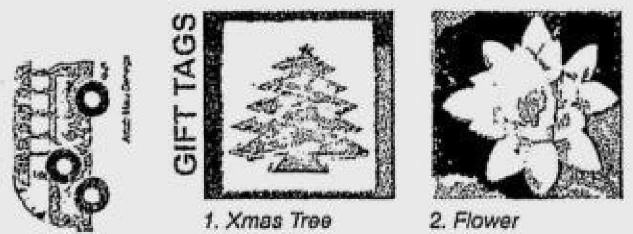
3. Watermelon Jeep
Artist: Malu Deniega

4. Pink Flower Jeep
Artist: Alan Deniega

5. Blue Diamonds Jeep
Artist: Malu Deniega

6. Pink Hearts Jeep
Artist: Alan Deniega

GIFT TAGS



1. Xmas Tree
Artist: Mitsuko Yukoin

2. Flower
Artist: Malu Deniega

Ability, artistry and mercy in a card

Cards designed by an artist with cerebral palsy fittingly celebrate the holidays

By Cheche V. Moral

A PURCHASE of greeting cards from the Circle of Friends Foundation Inc. (Coffi) will help provide livelihood to disabled Filipinos while helping their rehabilitation.

Designed by Malu Panopio Deniega, with her husband Alan, the cards depict the iconic jeepney in varied colorful permutations on paper, and come in set boxes of 12.

Deniega suffers from cerebral palsy.

The Artists and Artwork, a program that pushes for the sale of artworks by talented artists with physical disabilities, is only one among many of Coffi's projects, which also include Wheelmobile, a transport service provided for persons on wheelchairs. It also supports the projects of Tahanang Walang Hagdanan, including the charity home's recycling efforts.

Deniega's works come not only in greeting cards, but also postcards, gift tags and book markers. She has another card collection focusing on the lizard design.

The Jeepney greeting cards sells for P200 for a box of 12 (4.75" x 5.75"); P150/box of 12 (4" x 5"); Jeepney postcard for P75/box of six; gift tags at P30/box of 10; and book marks P10/each. The Lizard Collection goes for P100/set of 10.

The printing of the cards were sponsored by individual and corporate donors and some private organizations.

Call 8873040, 0917-8109504, email mgloor@ attglobal.net, or visit www.coffi.net.

Send a card, save a child

UNICEF Christmas Collection 2006

By Anne A. Jambora

Unicef cards and gift items help the UN agency better the lives of children

NOW ON ITS 60TH YEAR, the Unicef holiday greeting cards have become a "Send a card, save a child" tradition."

Net proceeds from sales of the cards go a long way to fund various Unicef programs in the country, such as the Early Childhood Care and Development; Child-Friendly School System; Health and Nutrition; Emergencies and Disasters Assistance; HIV/AIDS Education; Children at Risk; Local Governance; Social Mobilization.

Christmas greeting cards designed by homegrown artists Manuel Baldemor and Wilfredo Alicdan are among the top choices for Filipinos.

A set of Baldemor's "Pilgrimage," 10 cards at 11x15.5 cm, costs P380; his "Caroling" set, 10 cards at 13.7x19.5 cm, is pegged at P450.

Alicdan's "Home for Christmas," 10 cards at 11x15.5 cm, is priced at P380.

All sets come with white envelops.

Departing from native motif, there is also the Christmas Spirit Collection, art interpretations of the spirit of the season; Snow Fun, playful scenes of children at play; Christmas Markets, traditional landscapes and holiday's excitement; Contemporary Religious, golden hues and warm tones representing the story of Christmas.

All come in standard 11x15.5 cm in five to 10 designs per set of 10 greeting cards; with white envelops; P380 per set.

There are also the "minis," sets of 10 cards at 8.5x13 cm for P230. Contemporary Christmas Minis, colorful minis with bold graphics and silver ink accents, come in five designs. Trendy Minis is a collection of upbeat designs suitable for any occasion.

For non-Christmas themes, there are birthday greeting cards available in Birthday Celebration, a set of 10 cards in 10 designs at 11x15.5 cm; suitable for all ages; P380 per set.

Also available are Keep in Touch, a selection 10 unique designs with silver foil accents, P380; 60th Anniversary One World, year-round greeting cards of die-cut messenger of peace, P400 per set of 10; Thailand Handmade, cards embellished with pressed leaves and gold foil accents, with inserts for personal greetings, P430 for a set of four 12.2x17.5 note cards.

Gift mugs include Pingu! Mug and Children's Mug, at P400 each. (All dishwasher- and microwave-safe). Educational toys for 1 year old and up are Animal Nesting Boxes, 10 blocks different sizes in a cardboard storage box, P820. Made in the Philippines is Mouse Photo Frame, which fits the size of 10x15-cm pictures. It comes with a gift box, P340. Flik Flak Watch for children is water- and shock-resistant, P500 each (battery not included).

Gift items for grownups include Photo Desk Diary, with images of children from the world over that stands as a reminder of what Unicef stands for, at P770. It contains one photo for each week; a week to view; 2006 and 2007 year at a glance; 2006 and 2007 planners; week numbers; international holidays; and holiday pages. It comes in hard cover and spiral binding, protective card case and diary, 17x22 cm.

The Unicef Pocket Diary bonded in black leather is a classic Unicef gift item. It contains appointment slots, landscape week to view; 2006 and 2007 year at a glance; 2006 and 2007 planners; week numbers; international holidays; information for the international traveler; notes and address pages; ribbon page marker; and diary. At 17.5x8.5 cm, it's P570.

Over the last 10 years, Unicef Manila has raised P60 million to support numerous projects and programs for Filipino children. Call 91-0160 to 64.

FOREST Fever "Heaven on Earth" is set on Dec. 29-30 at CAP-John Hay Convention Center Garden Wing

Christmas in Baguio

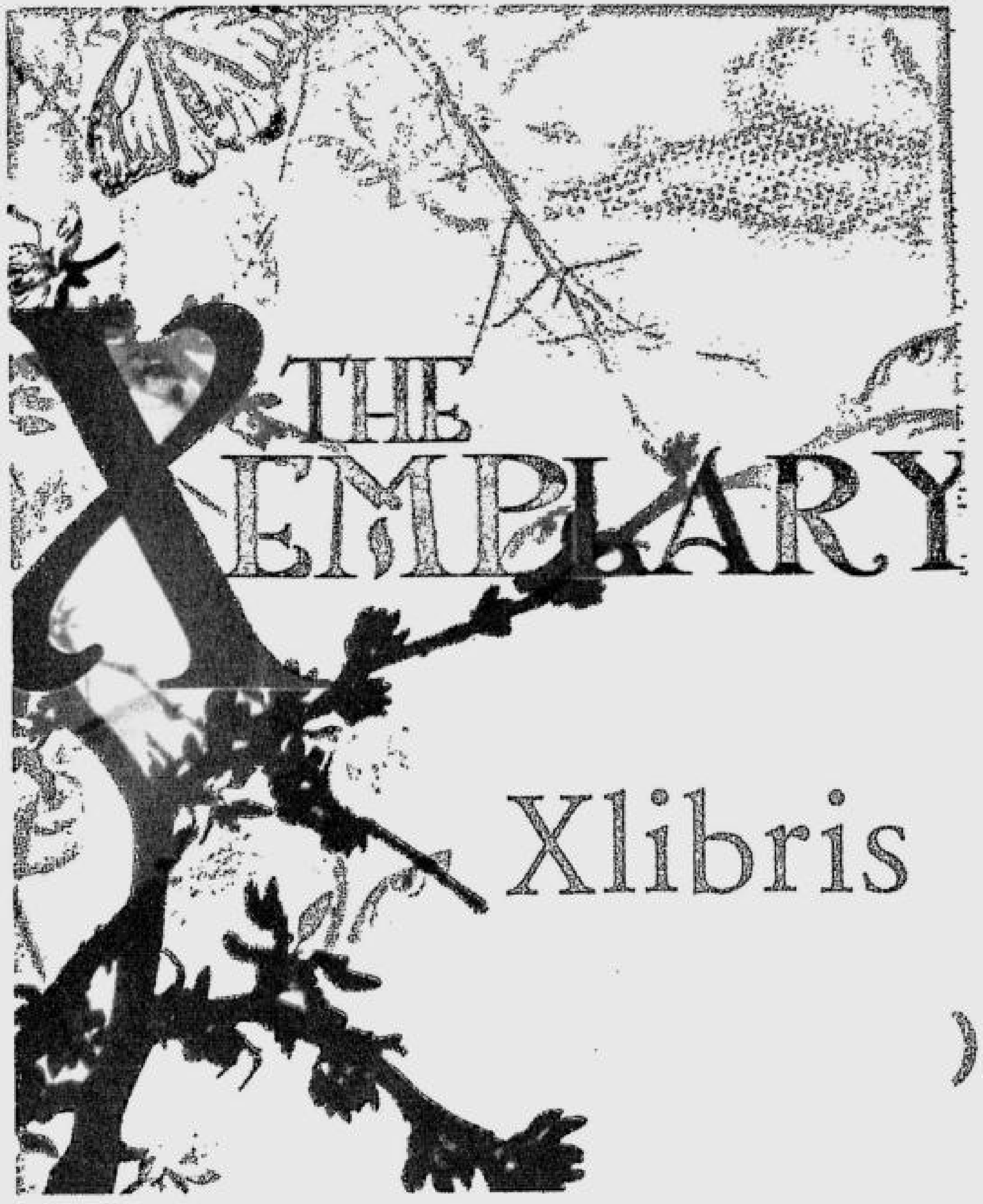
WANTING TO SPEND CHRISTMAS away from home but don't want the expense of going abroad? Why not go to Camp John Hay Manor in Baguio City?

The manor has scheduled activities starting Dec. 16. The University of Baguio Christmas Voices Chorale will perform classic Christmas melodies at the lobby Dec. 16-25, 6-7 p.m. At the Piano Bar, you can enjoy romantic piano music, live bands and Irish coffee 6 p.m.-12 midnight.

Traditional Filipino goodies and other treats will be offered at The Manor Garden Merienda Stations Dec. 16-Jan. 1, 2-7 p.m. From Dec. 1, Le Chef Deli will have a Gingerbread House and other Christmas goodies. On Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Mass will be held 5 p.m. at The Manor Garden. A Christmas Eve Buffet will be served 6-10 p.m. It will be followed by the Christmas Dinner Concert at 8 p.m. The *Noche Buena* Buffet will be served 10:30 p.m.-2:30 a.m. On Christmas Day, there will be a brunch buffet.

Forest Fever "Heaven on Earth" will be held Dec. 29-30 at CAP-John Hay Convention Center Garden Wing.

On Dec. 31, New Year's Eve Mass will be held 5 p.m. at The Manor Garden. At 12 midnight, there will be a fireworks display. Le Chef will serve a New Year's Day brunch buffet Jan. 1. Call (02)8450892, 8450911, (02)6876710, 6876524 or Baguio at (074)4460231-50; fax (074) 4450420; e-mail cjh-manor@skyinet.net. Visit www.campjohnhayhotels.



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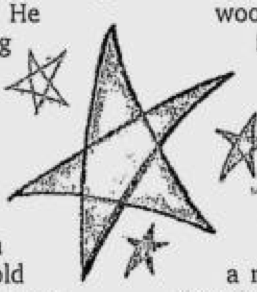
Keep gifts safe during shipment

IF YOU ARE SHIPPING GIFTS for friends and relatives, remember to give them proper care and package so they arrive in good condition at the right time.

Joel Manlangit, exports manager of TNT Express, stresses the importance of planning and using the right packing material. He offers the following tips:



1. Wrap and cushion breakable items like porcelain, mugs, glass, bottles individually with bubble wrap, old newspaper or manila paper. About four to six layers will suffice.

2. Bigger items like paintings, glass panels and furniture should have an inner cushioning material like fiberboard or bubble wrap to prevent scratches and dents.

3. Breakable items should be placed snugly inside a fiberboard or wooden box, by adding cushioning material at the base, the four sides, in between items and on the top.

4. Ensure that breakable items do not move around.

5. Write "Fragile" and/or "Handle with Care" outside the package.

6. Indicate with an arrow which side is up, if the package contains liquid.

7. Put bigger items inside a wooden or plastic crate for increased protection during shipment.

8. Remove old labels, especially addresses, to avoid confusion.

9. Make sure to put a return address in case the gift is mis-sent.

If you don't have the time to package your gift properly, bring it to a moving company. But first check shipping cost or rates, requirements, customs rules and regulations, and travel time, especially if the package is to be sent abroad.

TNT Express offers useful information at www.tnt.com/country/tl_ph.html. Click on "express services" and go to the shipping information section.

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Through Premium Concierge Service's Personal Shopper Service, card holders can get help in finding a specific luxury, fashion or gift item. It will check on the cost of the item and where it is available.

Delivery can be made through Premium Concierge Service's Gift Delivery Service.

Cardholders can also avail of the Personal Shopper and Gift Delivery Service to locate and shop for items overseas. The customer service executive will give advice on the availability of the item, how it will be packaged, as well as what tax and shipment regulations apply.

Citibank's Premium Concierge Service is free of charge. Cardholders only pay for their purchases and taxes, if required.

The service also provides 24/7 assistance for travel and entertainment services such as referral and reservation, messengerial, and emergency hotline anywhere in the world. Log on to www.citibank.com.ph.

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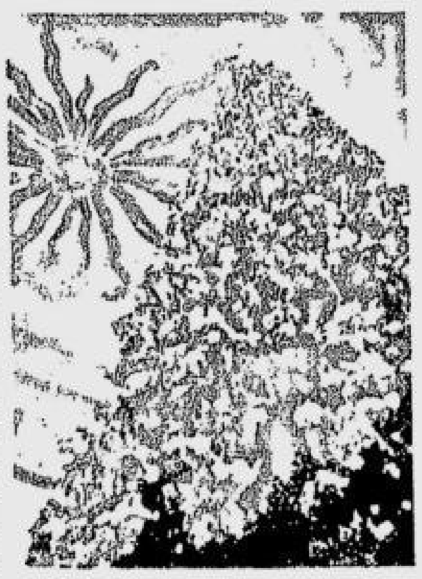
Christmas concert on Dec. 16

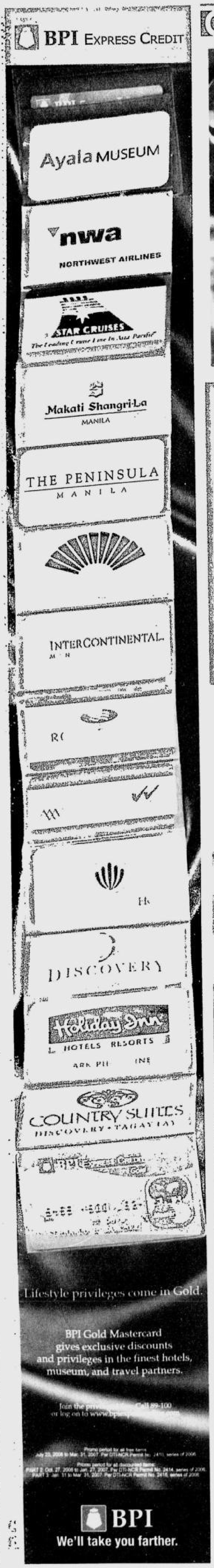
THE ANNUAL "CHRISTMAS concert at the Pen" will be held 5 p.m., Dec. 16, at the lobby of the Peninsula Manila.

The concert features the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

This year, the event will also showcase the recent makeover of the Peninsula lobby. Concert sponsors are The Peninsula Manila, Stores Specialists, Inc. and Metro Society, and in cooperation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Philippine Daily Inquirer, The Philippine Star, Antex Enterprise, E.C. Paulino Construction Co., Inc., Pampanga Block Builders, Inc. and RS Wood Industries, Inc. Call 8872888.



THE PHILIPPINE **Philharmonic Orchestra (left) holds a concert at the Peninsula Manila lobby.**



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INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Karel Marquez headlines 'High School Musical'

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

Ateneo's Blue Repertory is mounting the stage adaptation of the hit Disney movie in February next year

By Gibbs Cadiz

THE STAGE musical version of the hit Disney Channel movie "High School Musical" is hitting Manila early next year, with Ateneo de Manila's Blue Repertory having bagged the rights to mount the blockbuster musical. TV host and singer Karel Marquez stars as Gabriella Montez.

BlueRep representative Hendri Go was in New York last September to secure the rights from Music Theater International, the official licensing agency of Disney Theatricals. The Manila run, to be directed by Chari Arespacochaga, is said to be the first officially licensed production of "High School Musical" in Asia, and for it, Disney has chosen a campus theater group that's become known for harnessing the energy and enthusiasm of young people for musical theater.

BlueRep has previously staged musicals such as "Footloose," "Sweet Charity," "Hope for the Flowers," "Bye Bye Birdie," "The Wiz," and Stephen Sondheim's "Merrily We Roll Along," the last production likewise licensed by Music Theater International.

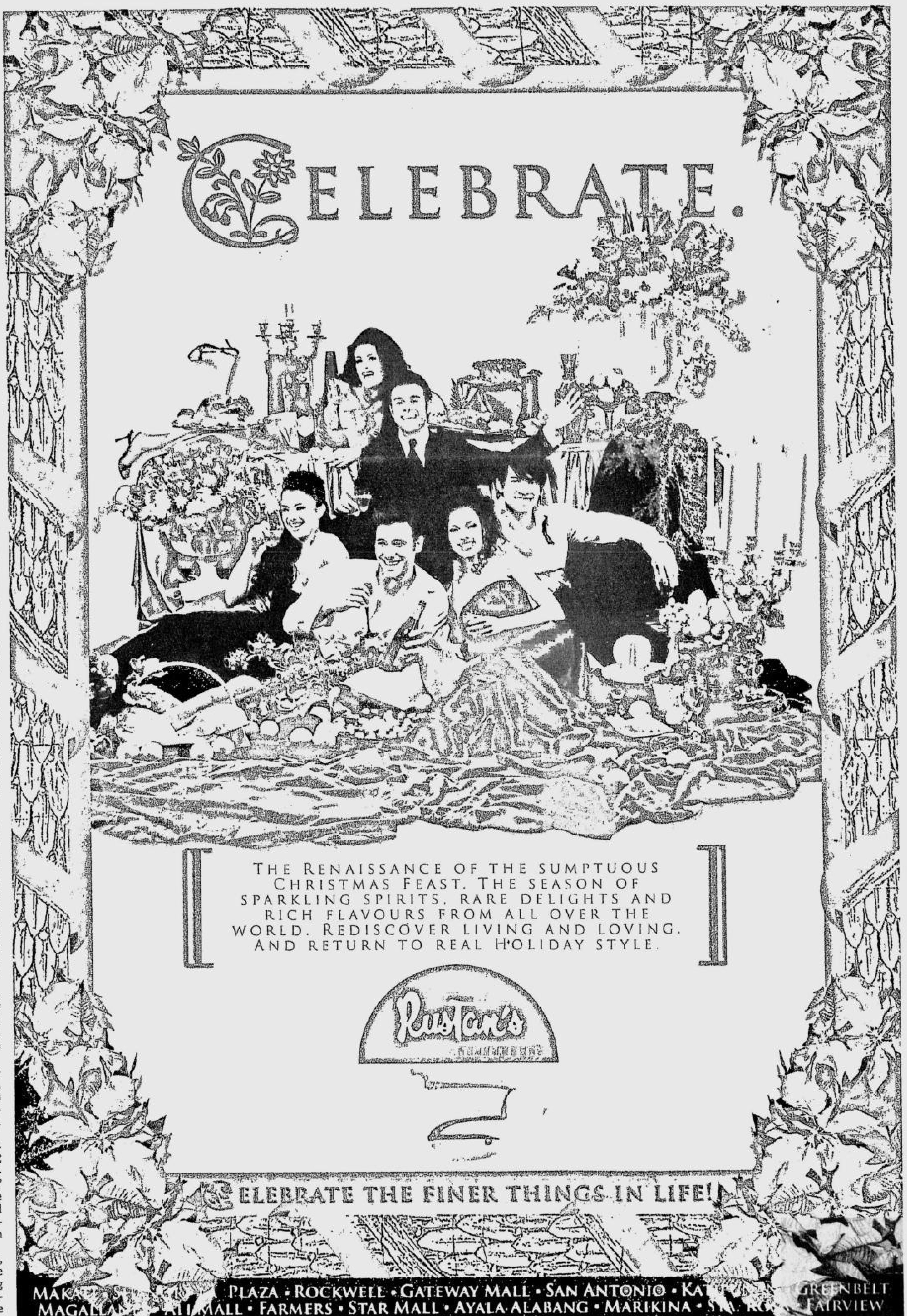
The recent auditions for "High School Musical," held at Ateneo's Gonzaga Fine Arts Building, drew some 270 hopefuls, with about 45 making it to the final list. Those who auditioned weren't all from Ateneo (BlueRep is not exclusive to Ateneo students).

"It was a large cross-section of young people, and not just from the exclusive schools," says Arespacochaga. "There was somebody from Baguio, and also students from PUP, International School, St. Paul's..."

Marquez, who alternated with KC Concepcion in Atlantis Productions' "Beauty and the Beast" in 2005, lined up like the rest to audition for a part in the musical.

"She showed up, held her own in the reading, and sang and blended beautifully with the guy we found for Troy," says

KAREL/D2



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Karel Marquez headlines 'High School Musical'

SOME 270 hopefuls trooped to the auditions for "High School Musical," held at Ateneo's Gonzaga Fine Arts Building.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DIDANG DOLLOSA

From page D1

SHARK Alonzo, son of theater thespian Chinggoy Alonzo, will play Troy Bolton.

Arespacochaga, who also directed Stages' "Footloose" last year.

Marquez ended up getting the plum role of Gabriella Montez (played by Vanessa Anne Hudgens in the movie) opposite Shark Alonzo as Troy Bolton (Zac Efron in the film).

Shark is the son of theater thespian Chinggoy Alonzo and the younger brother of actor-dancer Ralion Alonzo, who is currently a performer in Hong Kong Disneyland. A senior Ateneo student, "he is a very good dancer, he sings well, he looks the part and he does play basketball," says Arespacochaga.

In "High School Musical," Troy is the captain of his school's basketball team who is challenged to explore his love for singing when he meets the smart and musically inclined Gabriella Montez. Together, they audition for their school's musical presentation, even as their respective commitments to sports and studies pull them in other directions.

"It's a story about a group of teenagers and how they deal with first love, peer pressure, going for their dreams, the value of friends and family, their studies and other activities," says Go. "It can be enjoyed not just by students, but by the entire family and people of all ages as well."

YEN Morada will play Sharpay Evans.

Top-selling album

The soundtrack of "High School Musical" has become a top-selling album worldwide, with songs like "Start of Something New," "We're All in This Together," and the mega-hit "Breaking Free" enjoying endless airplay and a permanent place in countless listeners' iPods.

Playing the part of Sharpay and Ryan Evans, the sister-brother team who battles it out with Gabriella and Troy for the lead parts in the school musical, are Yen Morada and Jaime Barcelon (Ashley Tisdale and Lucas Grabeel in the movie).

Morada is a UP student who previously appeared in BlueRep's "Sweet Charity," while Barcelon is an actor who trained at the Juilliard School in New York and is currently alternating as one of four Rolfs in Repertory Philippines' "The Sound of Music."

JAIME Barcelon, trained at New York's Juilliard School, gets the part of Ryan Evans.

The sheer number of people who showed up for the auditions highlights the phenomenal popularity of "High School Musical" among the young, thanks to its winning elements: good-looking stars, catchy music, a story that many of them can relate to, and that buzz of fun, excitement and energy coursing through the film.

The stage version will feature all the songs—"rearranged beautifully for choral harmony and pop theater," says Arespacochaga—and will retain the wholesome, youthful vibe beloved by so many in the movie.

The three-month rehearsal period for the cast began this month, with five scheduled performances on Feb. 23-25, 2007 (Friday and Saturday 8 p.m. shows, Saturday and Sunday 3 p.m. shows, and Sunday 10 a.m. show) at SM Megamall Cinema 4.

Choreographer is Dan Cabrera, one of the resident choreographers of ABS-CBN's "Pinoy Dream Academy." Kundirana alumnus Felix Rivera is musical director, Mio Infante ("Doubt," "Footloose") is set designer, and Johnsy Reyes is lighting designer.

As for the actors, "we were looking for those who had that bright energy, a spunk and youthfulness that would spill out of the show," says Arespacochaga.

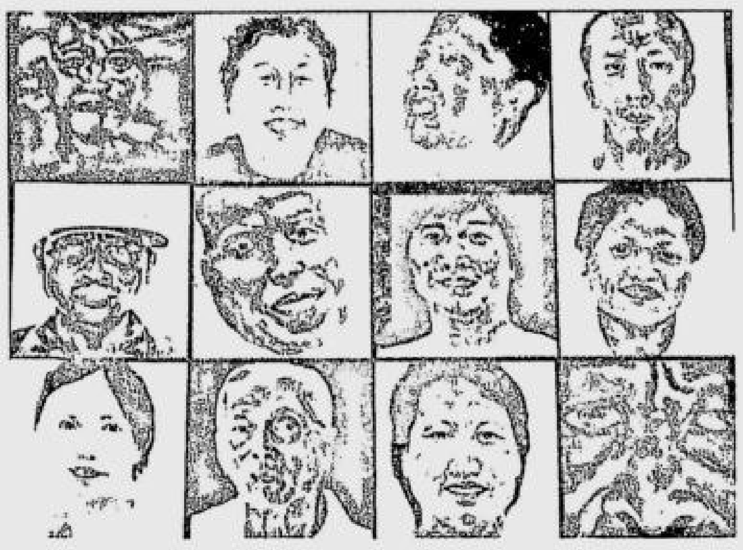
In Marquez, Alonzo and 45 other fresh talents, BlueRep is betting it has found its ideal "High School Musical" cast.

KAREL Marquez and Shark Alonzo during the auditions

Tickets for "High School Musical" will go on sale in January 2007 at all Ticketworld outlets. Call Hendri 0917-8155794 or Jill 0919-3608974.

E-mail gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph, visit www.gibbscadiz.com

David's vision of an interconnected universe



DAVID tries to peel off masks, dig deep, and go beneath the surface.

IN THE MOVIE "SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION," it was suggested that if you found the right five people, you would, sooner or later, meet anybody you want whether it was George W. Bush or George Clooney.

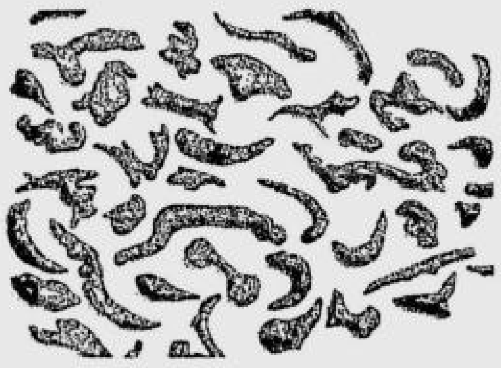
Allison Wong David, in a way, explores this theory in her first solo exhibition of paintings, sculptures and installations.

The collection of portraits reveals the interconnectedness of everyone and everything, breaking through the many degrees of separation to reveal the oneness of the universe.

"Portraits: The Interconnectedness of Everyone and Everything" is ongoing at Art Space, 4/F, Megamall Building A, Mandaluyong City, until Dec. 13.

With her compelling cast of characters, all drawn from real life, David tries to peel off masks, dig deep, and go beneath the surface.

She tries to tear apart differences to reveal the sameness that binds all humanity. Her subjects are relatives and friends, household staff, even strangers, whose seemingly ordinary lives reveal nuances that David's keen eye, sharp mind, sensitive soul and patient hand sought to capture on canvas, in clay or stone or metal, and the other media she used. Characters seemingly separated by fate and fortune were linked through the artist's deft hands.

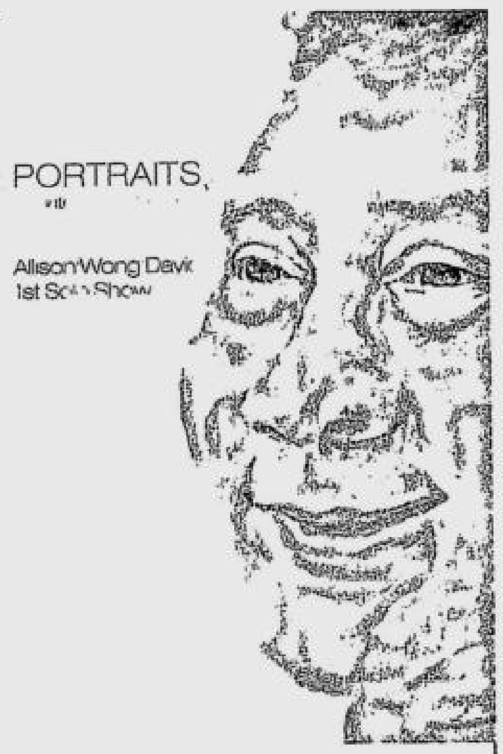


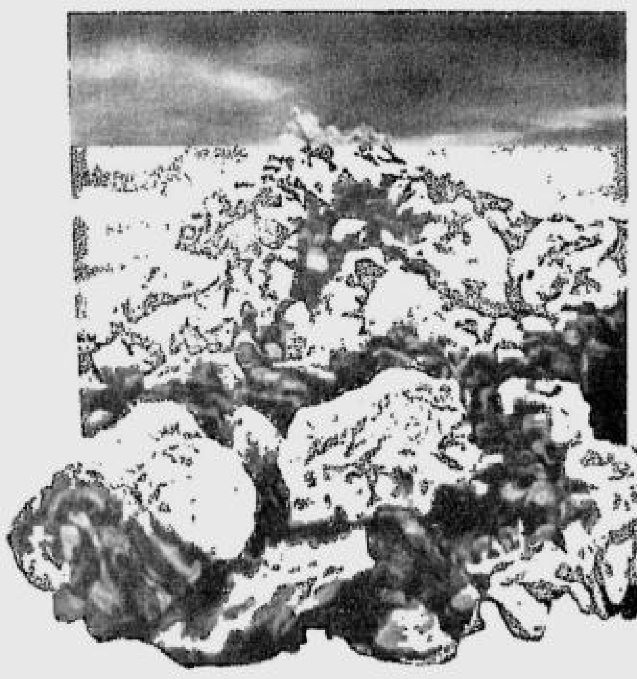
BRONZE portrait

Originally from Hong Kong, David began her artistic training at the Chelsea School of Art in London. As a visual artist, she was mentored by noted Filipino social-realist painter Renato Habulan.

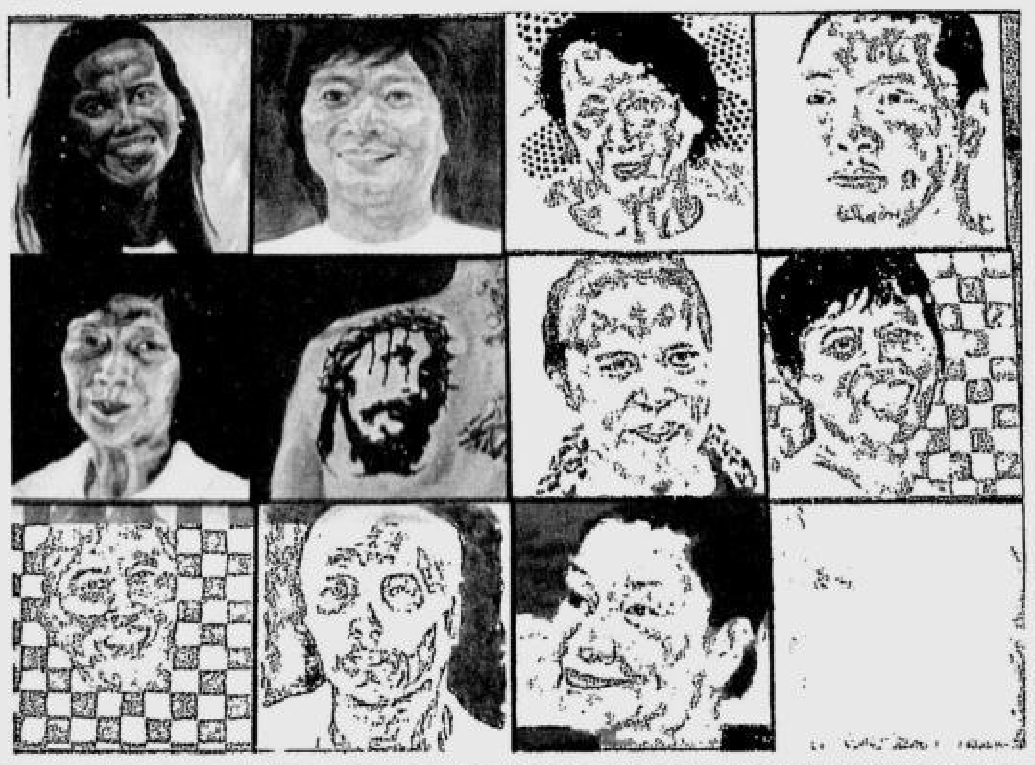
Through her debut show, David strives to bare the underlying emotions, characters and struggles in everyday life in the Philippines where, according to her, the basic values of love, camaraderie, caring and thoughtfulness are predominant.

"Portraits: The Interconnectedness of Everyone and Everything," is ongoing until Dec. 13 at Art Space, 4/F, SM Megamall Building A, Mandaluyong City.

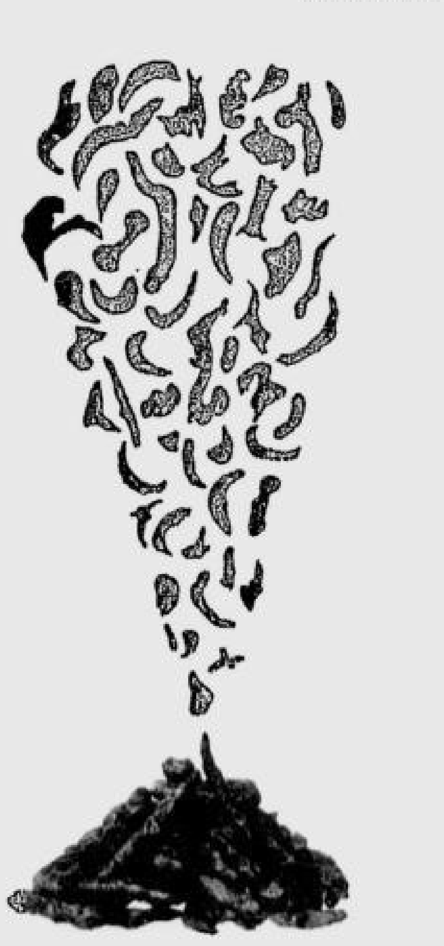




"SELF-PORTRAIT"



PORTRAIT mosaic



THE ARTIST tries to reveal the sameness binding humanity.

Paskong Pinoy for a cause

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS and lend a hand by dining at any Cabalen restaurant this December. The eat-all-you-can, eat-all-you-want restaurant is now on its 10th year of raising funds for less-privileged children.

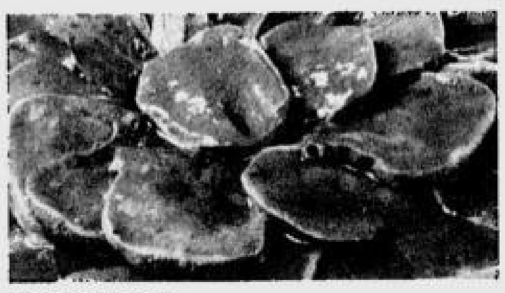
Called Cabalen Para sa Kabataan, the project sets aside a percentage of every centavo that Cabalen generates for the entire month of December for less-privileged children.

For the past nine years, Cabalen has used the money earned during the year's month-long fund drive to provide for the needs of poor students from public schools and destitute children in Pampanga, Malabon and Pasig City. This year, Cabalen donated a library for the students of Teodora Alonzo Elementary School in Project 4, QC.

Cabalen offers diners a buffet laid out with specialties such as Beef Morcon, Seafoods, Paella, Morcon, Rellenong Bangus, Asadong Dila, Kalderetang Baka, Fish Flakes with Mayo, Bam-I or Pancit Guisado, Chicken Embutido, Buco-Pandan Salad, Hot Native Chocolate and Bico.

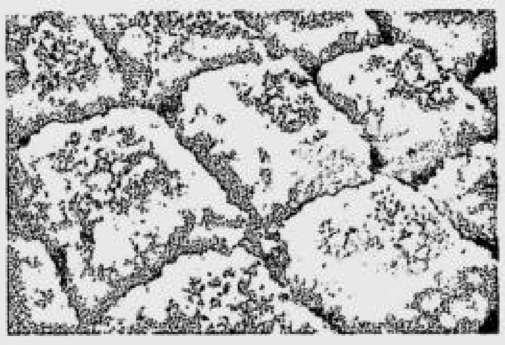
Other specialty dishes served year-round include Kare-Kare, Sisig and Bulalo with Mais.

Cabalen Restaurants are located at 67 West Ave., QC; 2/L, SM City North Edsa, QC; 4/L, Bldg. B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong; 2/L, Robinsons Place Ermita, Manila; Glorietta 3, Makati City; G/L, Robinsons Starmills, San Fernando, Pampanga; Brickroad Area, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Cainta, Rizal; 3/L, Chefs Avenue, Festival Mall, Alabang; and the newly opened Cabalen at SM City, Clark, Pampanga. Call 9111584, or for catering, 4219220 or 9135522.


ASADONG Dila

BUFFET of Kapampangan favorites

FISH Fillet in Mayonnaise


BICO

Fastfood chain building 6 more day-care centers

MCDONALD'S CHARITIES CELEBRATED World Children's Day with the ground-breaking for six Bahay Bulilit day-care centers.

A joint project of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), local governments, and McDonald's Charities, the centers are in the cities of Zamboanga; Bataan; Cebu; San Pablo and Sta. Cruz, Laguna; and Tanuan, Batangas.

The day-care centers in depressed areas give primary education to children under 6 years old.

In Bahay Bulilit, children play and learn in a safe and stimulating place.

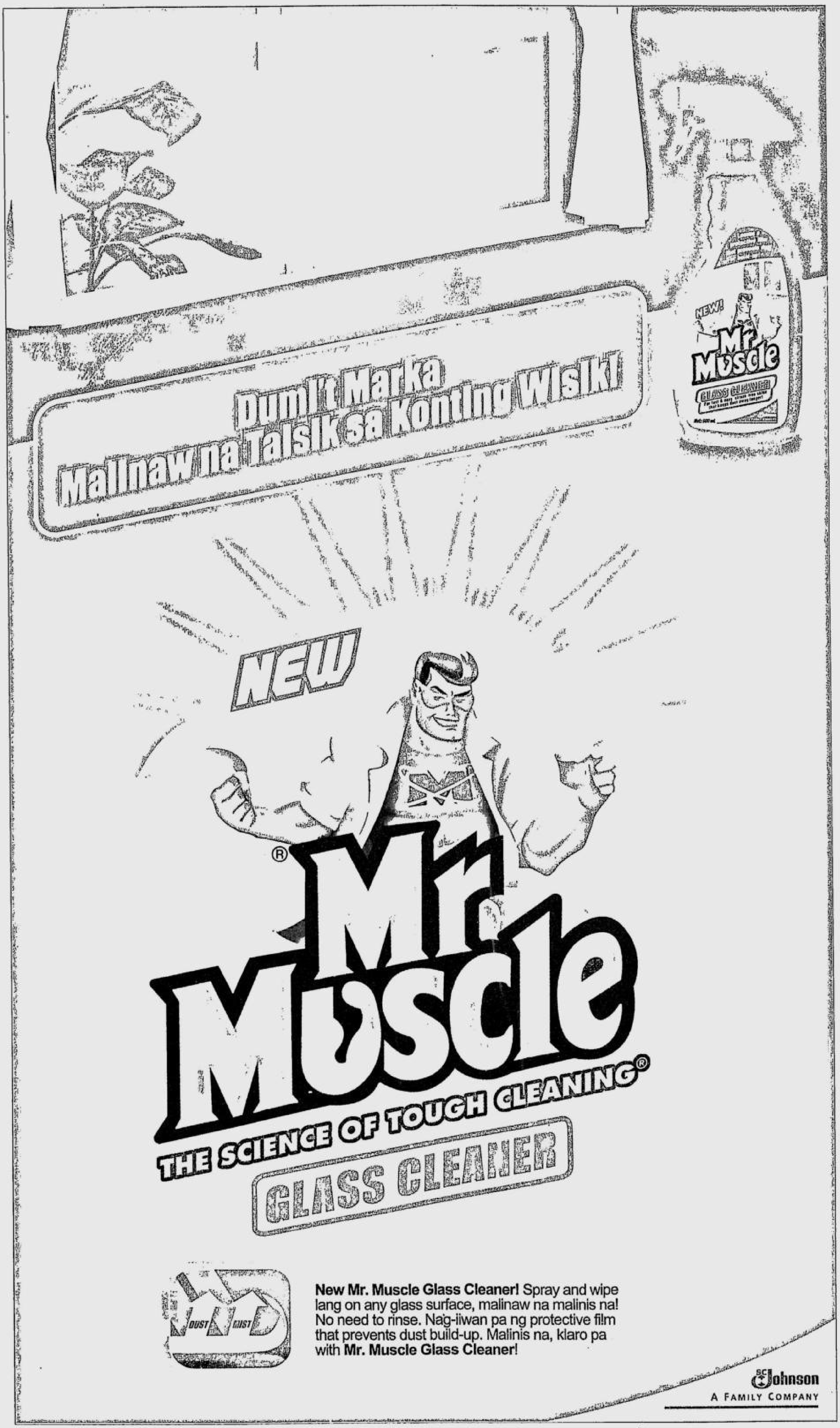
At present, there are nine Bahay Bulilit centers in the cities of Makati, Quezon, Mandaluyong, Manila, Pasay and Iloilo; Taytay, Rizal; and Balayan, Batangas.

McDonald's Charities aim to build 100 Bahay Bulilit day-care centers nationwide.

McDonald's founder George Yang has also handed to the Department of Education money donated by McDonald employees, as their contribution to World Children's Day.

Customers who order a Happy Meal contribute to McDonald's Charities since 50 centavos of every meal sold goes to charity.

McDonald's is also distributing "Share Your Change" canisters to its over 260 outlets to raise funds for its child-oriented programs.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for enabling us to perform our commitment to our customers.
Our gratitude to all our employees for being dedicated team players
for providing our customers with the excellent service that eTelecare is known for.

Together, we celebrate the many reasons why eTelecare shines. And, in the new year,
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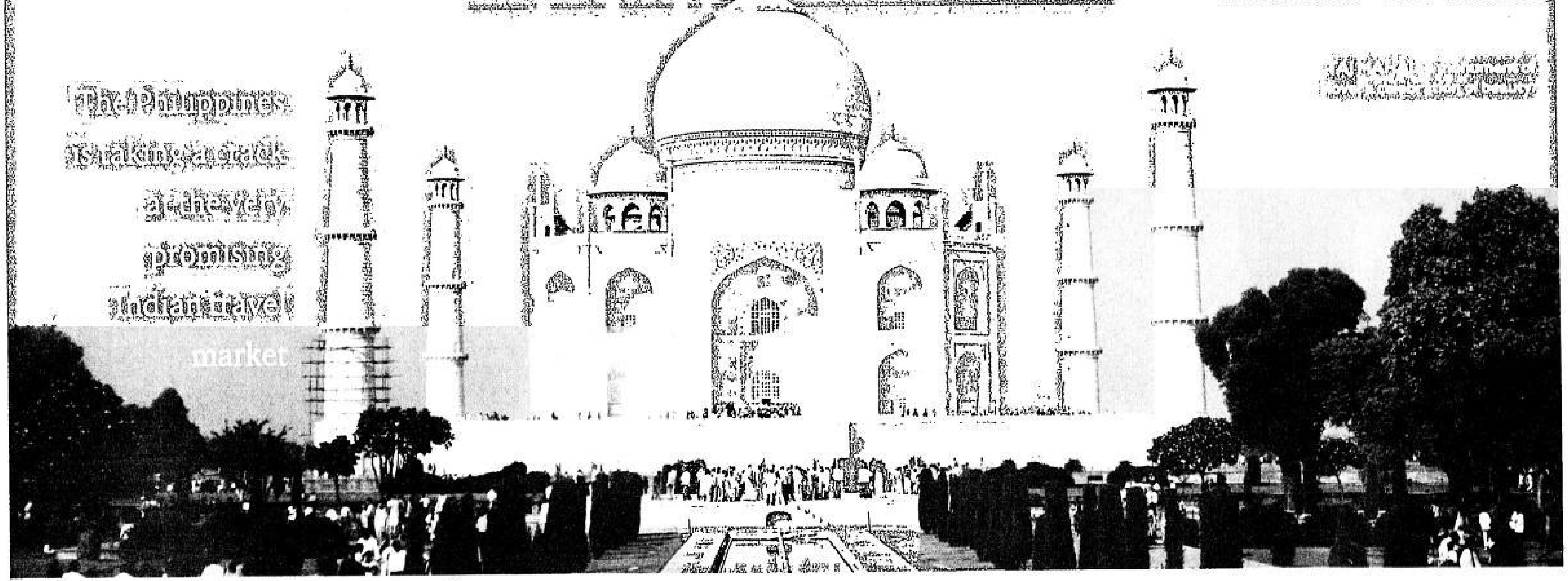

The Philippines is taking a crack at the very promising Indian travel market

It's an Indian summer for Philippine tourism

Text and photos by Anne A. Jambora

THE MYSTICAL CHARM AND the promise of a spiritual nirvana may have long seduced visitors to walk the vestal groves of India, but there is no big mystery to the aggressive campaign of the Philippine Department of Tourism to lure into the country the Indian tourism market. The DOT is simply going after the big fish—and it is a chunk worth every single bite.

As the second most populated country in the world, India has about seven to eight million outbound tourists each year, traveling for leisure across the globe for 10-16 days and each spending an average of $1,250 on food and shopping alone.

Indians, in fact, are among the world's top tourist spenders. This is according to San Jeet, India representative for the Philippines at the Philippine Tourism Marketing Office in New Delhi.

While the country does have the traditional tourists who visit to relax and enjoy the scenery, thus spending rather conservatively, it is the Indian market that delights in experiencing a holiday off from work—from savoring the local nightlife to hopping on a tour bus to lapping up on good bargains for souvenirs and, well, personal shopping.

"Indians are very much like Filipinos in that aspect; we love to shop," said Poonam Makhija of Buzz Travel Marketing India Pvt. Ltd., the travel company Jeet runs.

Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano said it clear: The facilities in Metro Manila and Cebu City make an ideal match to the Indian travelers' preference for entertainment, gaming and shopping.

Top travel destinations for Indians in Asia

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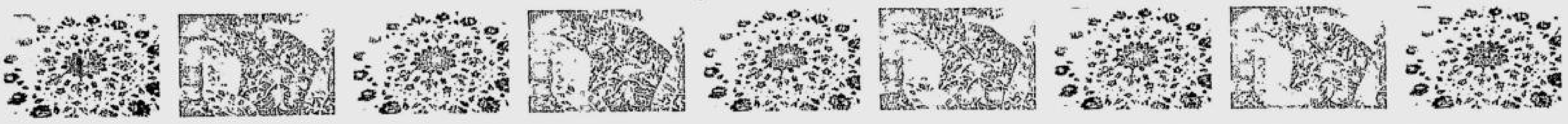
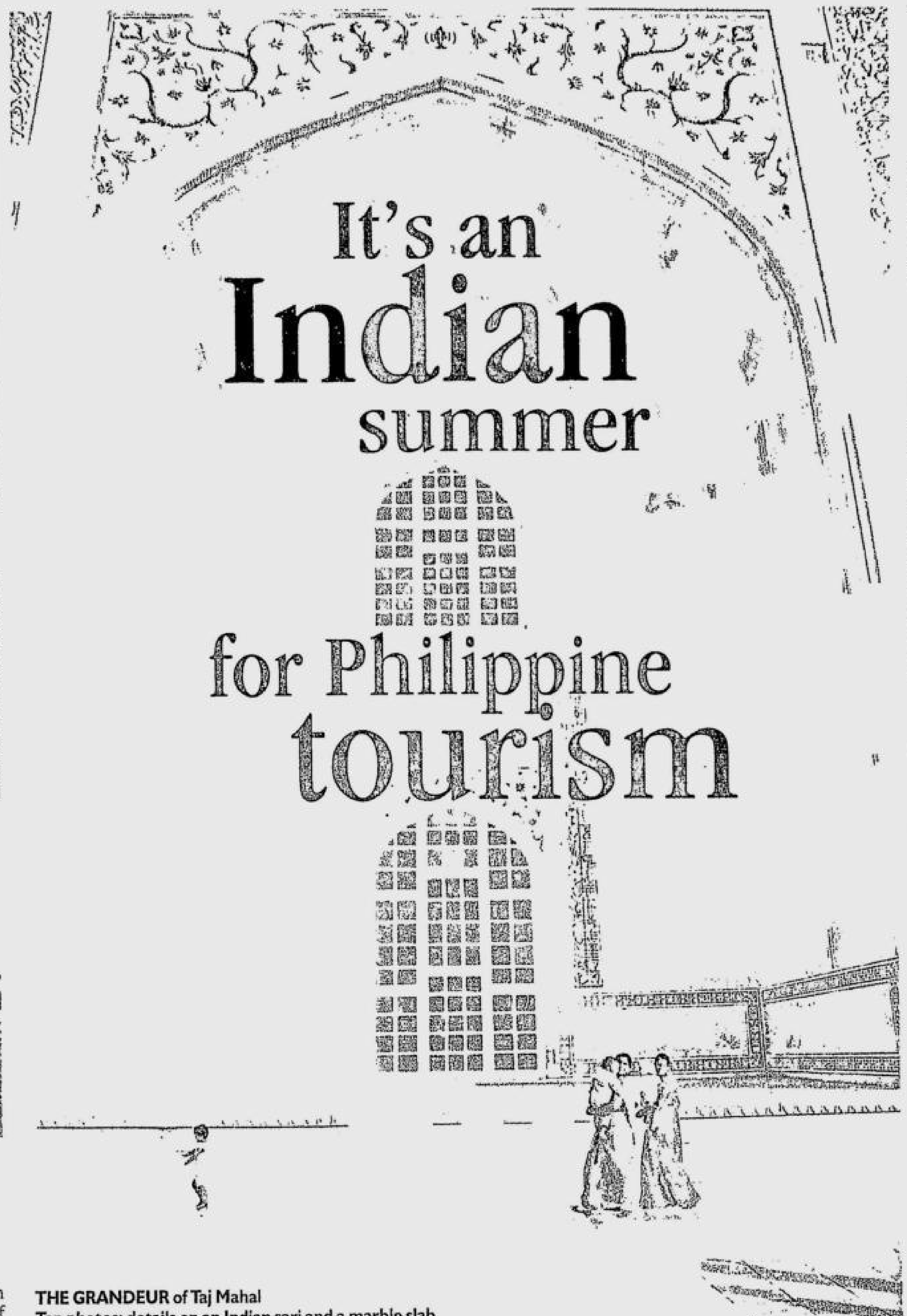
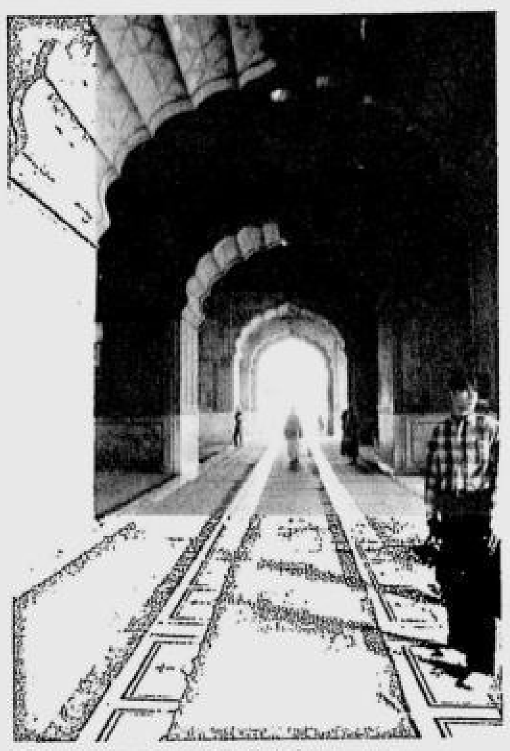


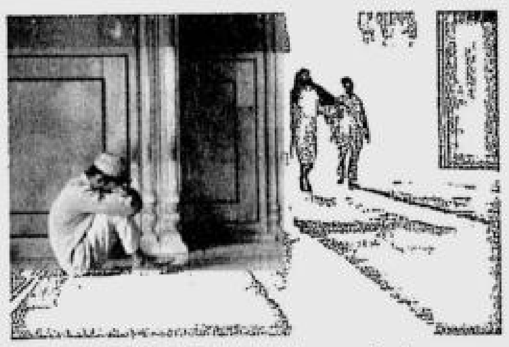
It's an Indian summer for Philippine tourism



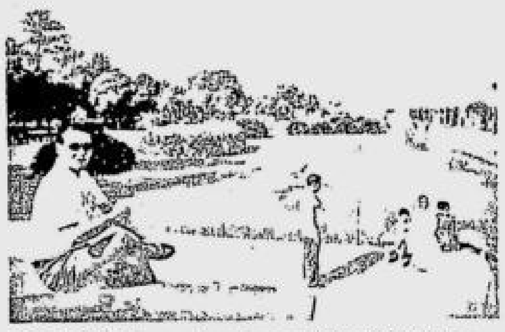
THE GRANDEUR of Taj Mahal
Top photos: details on an Indian sari and a marble slab



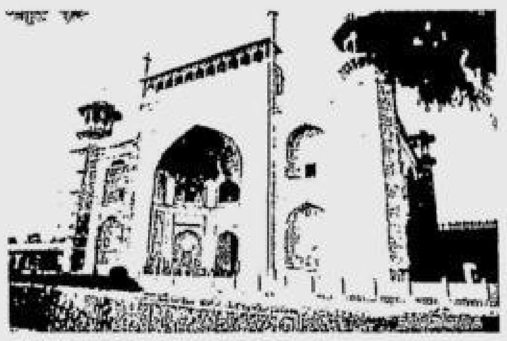
THE JAMA Masjid, India's largest mosque, has 11 arched entrances.



SPIRITUAL JOURNEY. This man finds comfort in prayer inside a temple in Old Delhi.

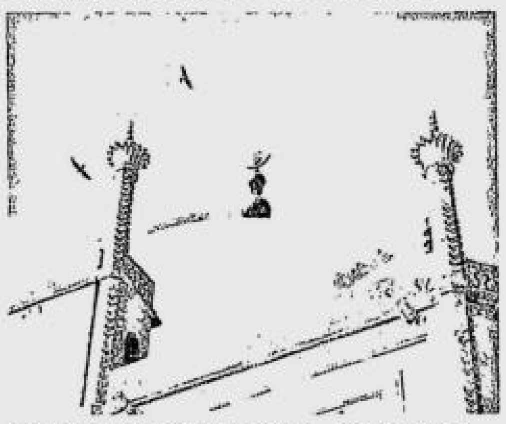


TOURISM Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano enjoys the view of the Taj Mahal. "We want the Philippines to be the alternative destination for Indian tourists."



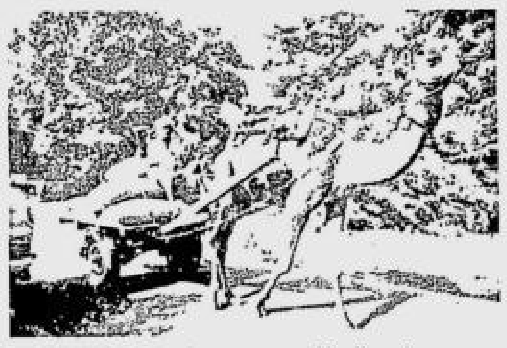
ENTRANCE to the Taj Mahal

COLONIAL architecture of government buildings across the Presidential Palace



THE TAJ Mahal's main spire—horns of the moon and finial point give a trident shape similar to the Hindu symbols of Shiva.

SHOES are not allowed inside the temples. This woman takes a breather outdoors.



CAMELS roam the streets of India, along with cows and elephants, in perfect harmony with the daily traffic.

From page E1

include Singapore and Malaysia, with each country receiving an annual average of 400,000 Indian tourists. The Philippines has populace of 80,000 permanent Indian residents, but as of September this year the country only received just over 17,000 Indian tourists. The figure may be up by 8.7 percent from the same period last year, but Durano hopes to duplicate DOT's success in China whose outbound tourism industry to the country rose to a staggering 160 percent after only a year of campaign.

"I believe we have a lot to offer to Indians," Durano said.

The main come-on? Economics. Indian rupees will definitely go a long way in the Philippines compared with other expensive destinations in Asia, enough to compensate for the long travel time Indians will have to go through nine hours overall, not including a layover in Singapore) coming to the country.

Besides, Jeet said, Indian travelers generally didn't just visit one country when on vacation. It made perfect sense then, he added, to jump on straight to the Philippines after touring, say, Singapore or Malaysia. Travel-wise it would be less stressful, and there would be more memories of interesting experiences to take home with them, he said.

"There are bars, beaches and shopping arcades in Malaysia and Singapore, so why go all the way to the Philippines? Aside from the fact that it is somewhat an undiscovered territory for many Indians, it is cheaper. Not that Indian tourists are scrimping during travels, but they can get so much more out of their money by choosing the Philippines," Makhija said.

Promotional activities from partner airline Singapore Airlines, such as tour packages to the Philippines, were already underway, said Durano. During his brief official trip—and his first—to India recently, Durano also sealed a successful partnership with Cathay Pacific Airways, Malaysian Airlines and Air Asia.

DOT's partnership with Jeet and the Buzz Travel agency is by no less an invaluable move. Jeet is also the founder of Durga Das Publications Pvt. Ltd., a specialized publishing company in travel and tourism materials, including Incredible India. Durano said Jeet's extensive marketing network and thorough understanding of the Indian tourism industry would help boost the tourism market here.

Jeet, who recently worked with DOT to host 15 Indian travel agents on a familiarization tour to Manila, Cebu and Bohol—all first-time visitors—said a buzz of excitement stirred the air upon the agents' return to India. Prior to that, he said, nobody in India had ever talked about the Philippines as a tourist destination.

"They couldn't believe such a beautiful and very affordable country existed," Jeet said. "Many Indians do not know what to do and see in the Philippines. Through the familiarization tour our agents learned that shopping is excellent, hotels and resorts are well-priced, beaches are beautiful, music and nightlife is wonderful."

So excited were the travel agents to get to work that over 140 Indian journalists showed up at the DOT press conference. The largest turnout for a tourism promotion in his 20-year experience, said Jeet, who expected at most only 70 journalists.

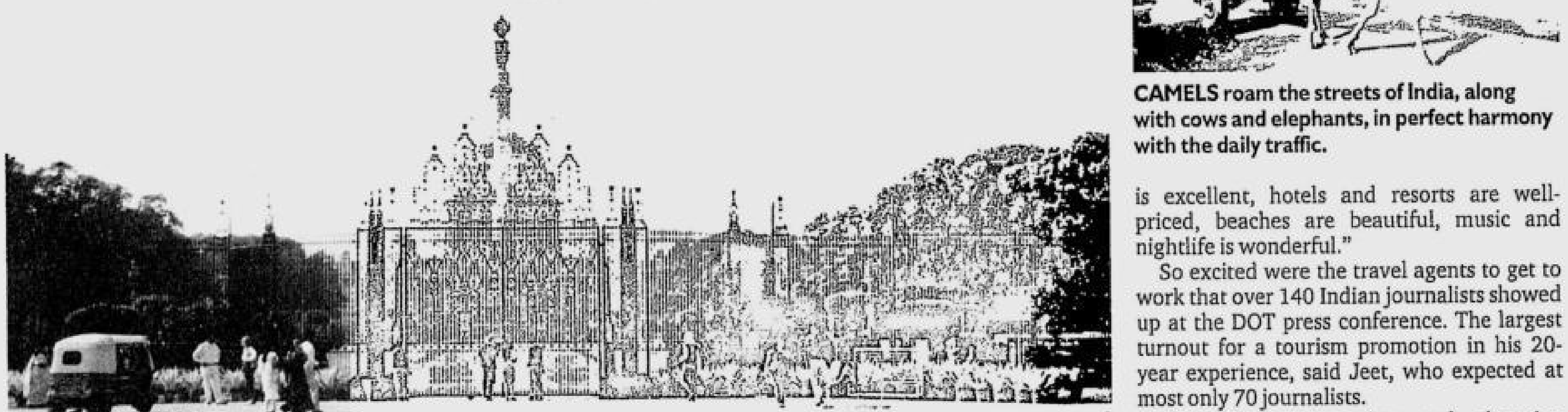
Entertainment, gaming and shopping might be in the order for Indian tourists, but Durano also impressed the country's many pristine beaches and scuba-diving destinations as excellent respite from city life.

"The Philippines offers a valuable proposition that enriches and enhances the travel milieu... Scuba diving is to the Philippines what Switzerland is to skiing or what Nepal is to mountain climbing. We have the highest marine diversity in the world, a fact supported by a UN study," Durano said.

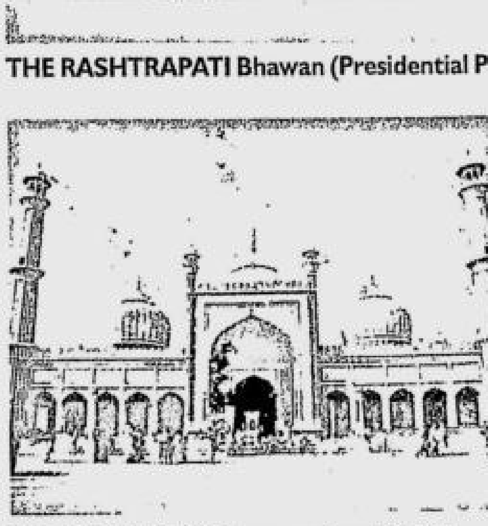
Durano said the Philippines needed to maximize the use of Manila's capacity of 26,000 "relevant rooms"—meaning room from three- to six-star hotels. He said DOT was also tapping India's dealer conferences that give away international vacation packages as incentives to its employees. Honda company in India alone gives away an average of 3,000 trips to its employees annually.

Luring in five million tourists to the Philippines by 2010 is Durano's support for President Macapagal-Arroyo's 10-point economic agenda.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph



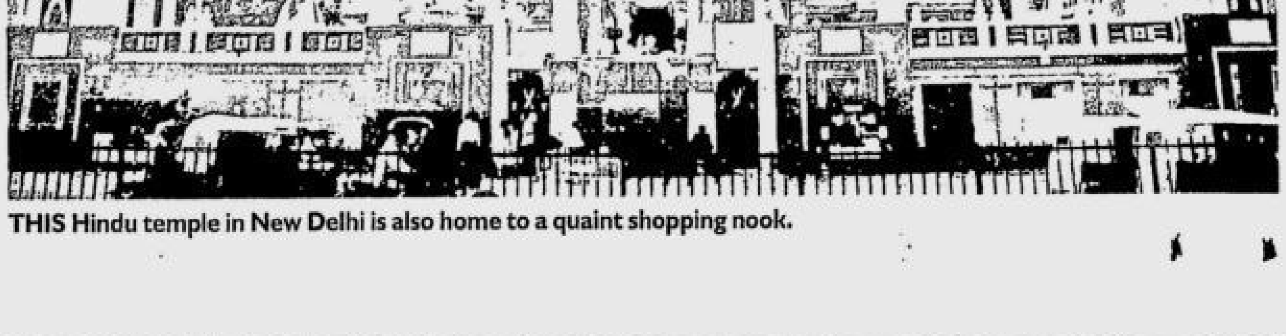
THE RASHTRAPATI Bhawan (Presidential Palace) in New Delhi



MASJID-I-JAHAN Numa, or Jama Masjid, "the mosque commanding a view of the world"

LURE of the snake charmer

RELIGIOUS practice requires men to wash their hands and heads before entering the house of prayer.



THIS Hindu temple in New Delhi is also home to a quaint shopping nook.

New picnic grounds at La Mesa watershed

HUGE concrete picnic tables are scattered all over the La Mesa park for dining.

METRO MANILA RESIDENTS can still find refuge from city pollution and noise in one of Quezon City's jewels, the La Mesa Watershed Resort and Ecological Park located in Fairview.

Families visiting the La Mesa Watershed Resort and Ecology Park will now experience the newly landscaped Lopez Picnic grounds. The Lopez family's support has resulted in pebbled pathways, improved concrete picnic tables and benches and lush landscapes, all enhancing the natural beauty of the picnic grounds.

Through the rehabilitation of the La Mesa picnic grounds, the family, with the help of ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Kalikasan, hopes to promote the protection of La Mesa Watershed and encourage the importance of environment in the city.

The ABS-CBN Foundation has been at the forefront of helping the La Mesa Watershed survive. Starting with its reforestation campaign in 1999, Bantay Kalikasan has successfully reforested 92 percent of its initial commitment of 1,500 hectares to be rehabilitated in La Mesa.

Visit www.bantaykalikasan.com and www.lamesaecopark.com.

THE PARK now has pebbled trails.

TRAVELBRIEFS

Special holiday package

Hyatt Regency Manila offers a special holiday package for the whole family until Dec. 31.

The package includes Deluxe room accommodation for two adults and two children, buffet breakfast at Café Al Fresco for two adults and two children, welcome drink at the Calesa Bar, Christmas cookies upon check-in, free use of the swimming pool, and free access to the Fitness Suite.

Hyatt Regency Manila also gives guests coupons for four to the SM Ice Skating Rink and entrance tickets for four to Star City. The package is available for only P4,000 net. Late check-out until 2 p.m. is subject to availability. Call 8331234 local 8595-97.

Fun-filled package

Holiday Inn Galleria Manila in Ortigas has a Fun-tastic Holiday Room Package for the whole family until Jan. 14. For P2,980++ per night, you can have a two-night minimum stay in a deluxe room with complimentary breakfast for two adults and two children daily.

The Fun-tastic package includes a 15 percent discount at Holiday Inn's newest restaurant Fab for lunch or dinner. Kids 7 years old and younger eat for free when they dine with their parents.

Suriya Spa offers a 15-percent discount on selected services. The first 100 to avail of the package get a P200 Gift Certificate for Toys R Us at the Robinsons Galleria Mall. Call 6337111 or e-mail mnlcp@ichotelsgroup.com.

Europe at a bargain

Experience Christmas in Vienna and other European destinations through Austrian Airlines.

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Guests get a complimentary 15-minute foot reflexology or back massage in the privacy of their rooms. The Suriya Spa offers a 15-percent discount for selected services.

The first 100 to avail of the offer will receive a special "unwind gift pack" from Suriya Spa that includes peppermint-scented hand and body lotion, wash and antibacterial hand spray. Lucky clients will also get an Armand Basi in Red or in Blue Fragrance card with their room key that will entitle them to a 20-percent discount.

Those checking in on Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) will get a fragrance sampler from Prestige Brands' Ferrari or Angel Schlesser. Call 6337222 or e-mail mnlcp@ichotelsgroup.com.

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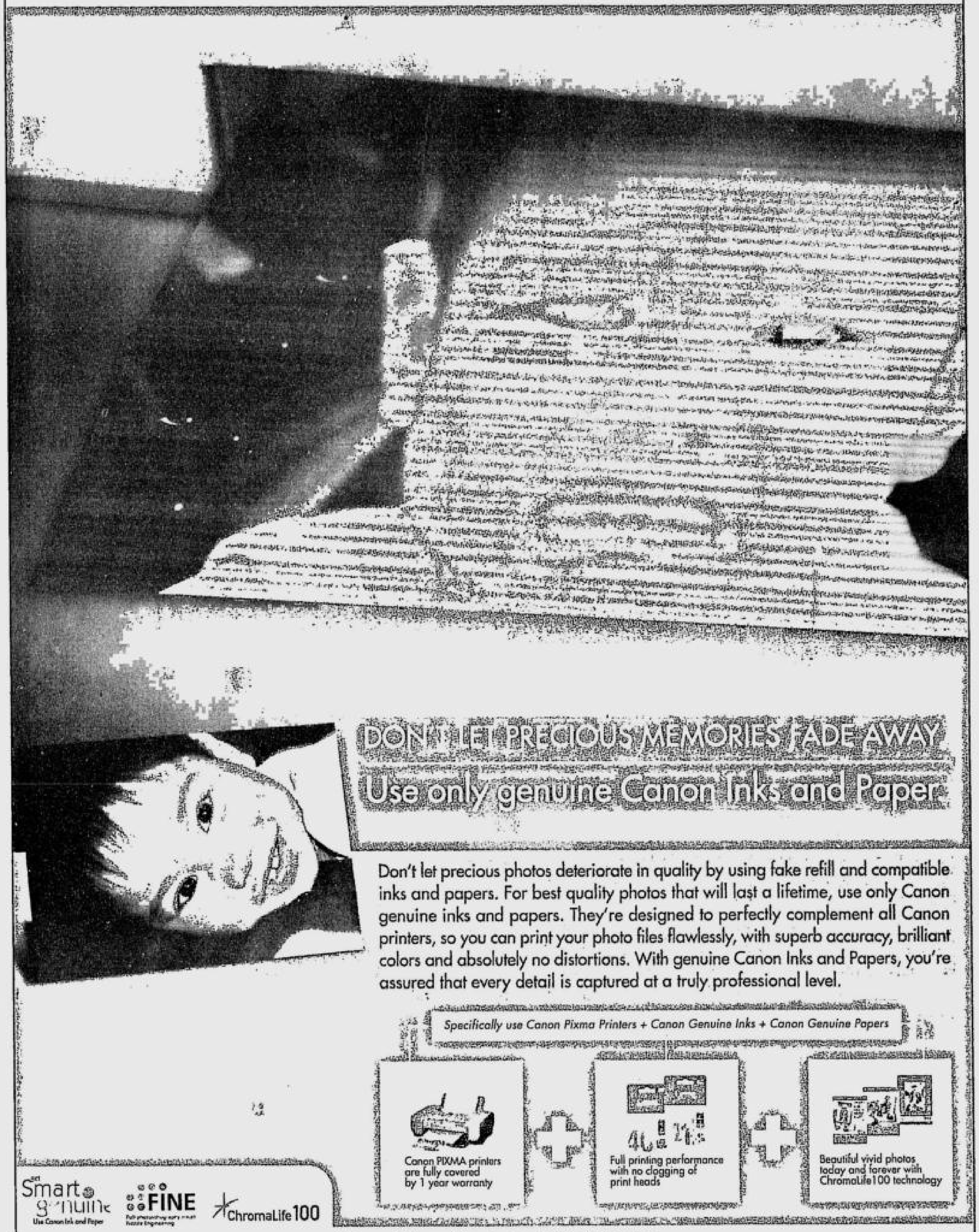

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Face the fact. You need to know more about your bones to take care of them the best way possible.

Studies show that Filipinos only get 57% of their daily calcium requirements. Bad news for your bones. That's because calcium is the key component of bones that help to form and maintain their strong structure. Speaking of bone formation, did you know that as human beings age, bones undergo a constant process of breaking down and rebuilding? This process is called remodeling.

A bone's life

Throughout physical maturity, bone remodeling varies depending on age, gender and hormonal status.

- The building of bone mass is most critical during the childhood and adolescent years. At this stage, bone formation usually takes place more than bone breakdown.
- As we progress to adulthood, bones are at an equilibrium, meaning bone mass is at its peak. At this point, bone formation and bone breakdown rates are almost the same. As such, it is important that the level of bone formation should balance that of bone breakdown to avoid bone mass depletion.
- Then moving on to the mature years (45 years old and up), slow bone loss is experienced.

Bones lose the ability to absorb calcium after 25 years of age. No amount of calcium can restore lost bone mass.

Live healthy with healthy-living bones

As with any other organ in the body, bones need to be nourished. Exercising regularly strengthens not just the muscles but the bones as well, so start walking more and hit those stairs when you can! Think physical activity might be bone breaking? Think again. On the contrary, choosing to lead a sedentary and inactive lifestyle can lead to bone loss. Remember, when you don't use it, you lose it! When standing, sitting and walking, think tall. Proper body posture makes bones stronger. Also, take the time to visit your doctor and have your bone health checked. While you're at it, seek advice on proper exercise and diet. Most likely, he'll tell you to eat foods that are rich in calcium, Vitamin D and minerals. Take his advice. And of course, to make sure your bones stay fit and strong, drink a glass or two of

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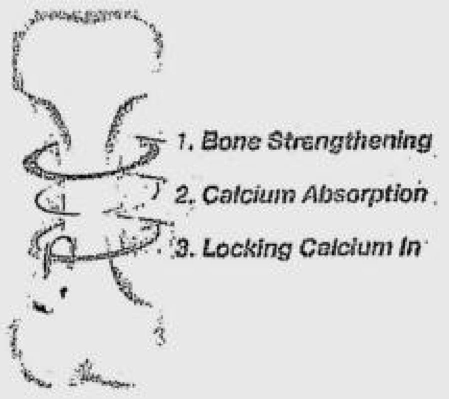

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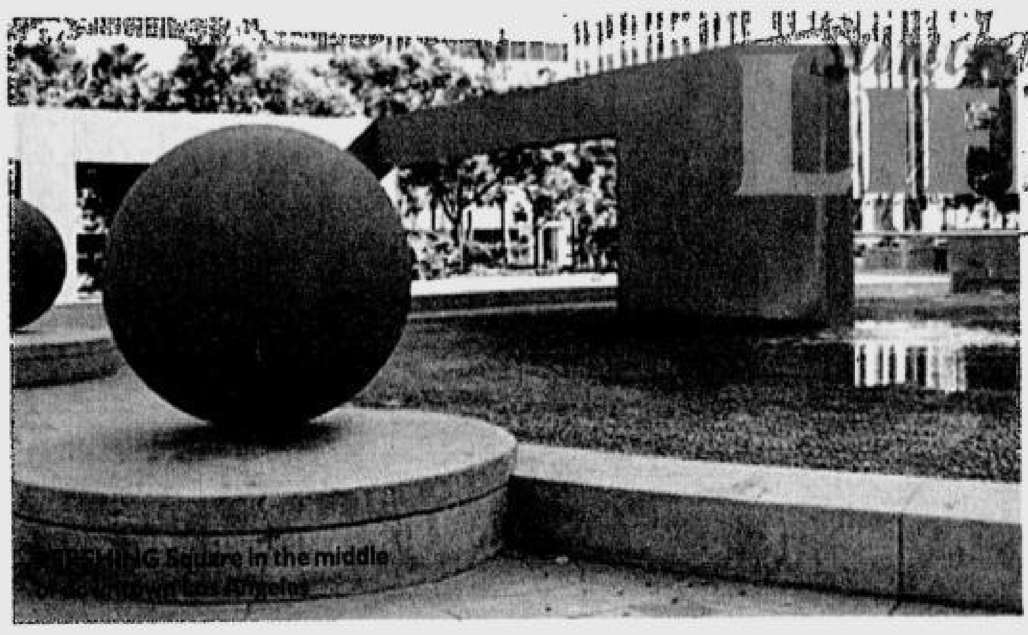

PERSHING Square in the middle of downtown Los Angeles

To live and prosper in LA

Hordes of immigrants are still taking their chances on an American city now far different from what it once was

Text and photos by Alex Y. Vergara

LOS ANGELES MAY HAVE grown exponentially both in land area and population through the decades, but the core of the city's history remains relatively intact to this day.

Situated in a quiet corner of downtown, a stone's throw away from city hall, El Pueblo de Los Angeles has been a silent witness to LA's changing fortunes, which began sometime in 1777. As Spain's influence in Mexico began to wane, it searched for new territories in the north.

Eleven families of mixed ancestries from the distant town of Alamos in Sonora (now part of Mexico) were recruited by the Spanish colonial government to settle in a newly established pueblo in Alta California (present-day Southern California) named after the Nuestra Señora la Reina de Los Angeles de Porciuncula.

Interestingly, the Pinoy presence in LA dates back to its earliest years when a man of Filipino descent named Antonio Miranda Rodriguez and his family almost made it as one of LA's original settlers.

When Miranda and the other *pobladores* were halfway through the journey, he decided to stay behind with his daughter who had become ill with smallpox. That was the last LA's history heard of Miranda, but not of Filipinos, who continue to migrate to the city today in droves.

Complex history

Indeed, one can't even begin to attempt to tell snippets of the "LA Story" without backtracking a little bit. If anything, such a complex history is surprising for a place that wasn't even a municipal city until 1850.

LA is one huge melting pot today (perhaps, even more diverse than New York City), but as recently as the 1940s the city was dubbed as America's "white spot" for its overwhelmingly Caucasian population, the result mainly of decades of internal migration.

Disillusioned by patronage politics, nepotism, regionalism and corruption (sounds vaguely familiar?) that held sway in older, more established cities in the East Coast and the Midwest, succeeding generations of Americans—what would later be called White Anglo-Saxon Protestants—wanting a fresh start promptly relocated to LA during the turn of the last century.

"America, to a large extent, was built upon such a system," said Dr. Fernando Guerra, director for the Study of Los Angeles at the Loyola Marymount University. "Much as we like to complain today about other countries doing that, we built our [older] cities using the old, corrupt political system."

Many Americans, who turned their backs from such practices, decided to build a whole new system when they moved to LA. It marked the start of the "progressive era," a model later followed by much newer western cities like Las Vegas, San Diego and Phoenix (more on this system and its present-day ramifications on LA next time).

"It was very much about how do you professionally administer a municipality," said Guerra. "How do you professionally administer politics? How do you take out the politics from politics?"

LA's population continued to swell soon after the war, when GIs returning from combat

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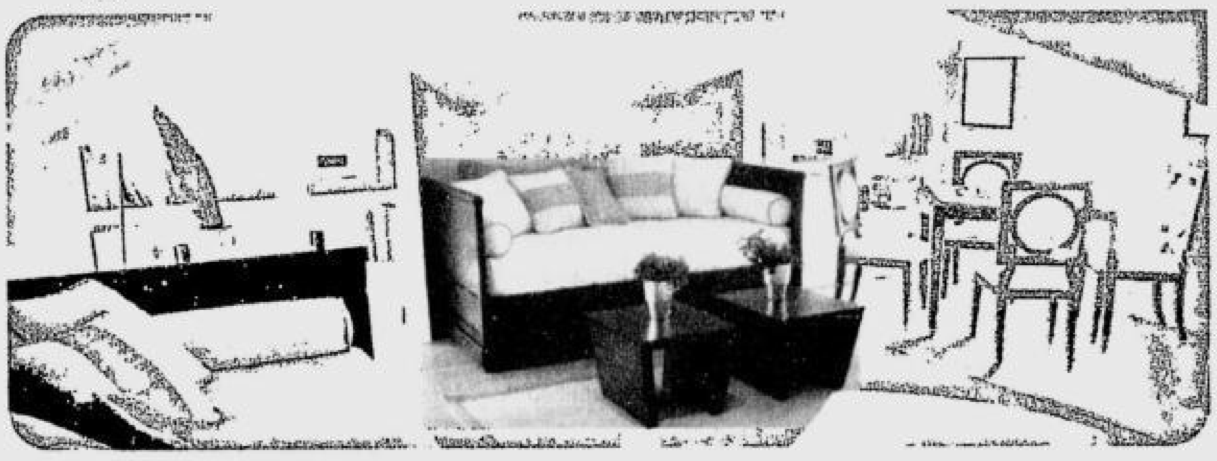

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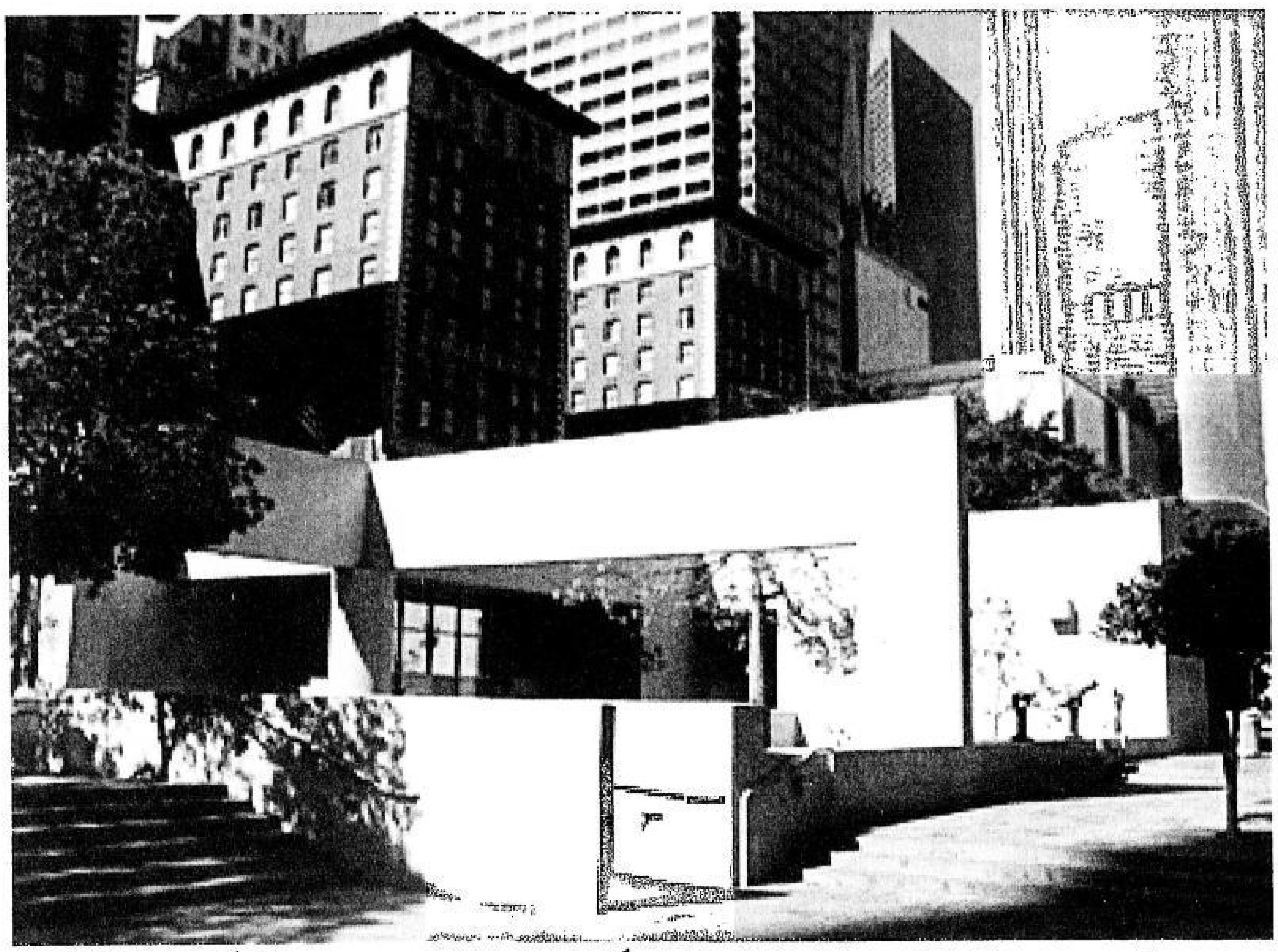
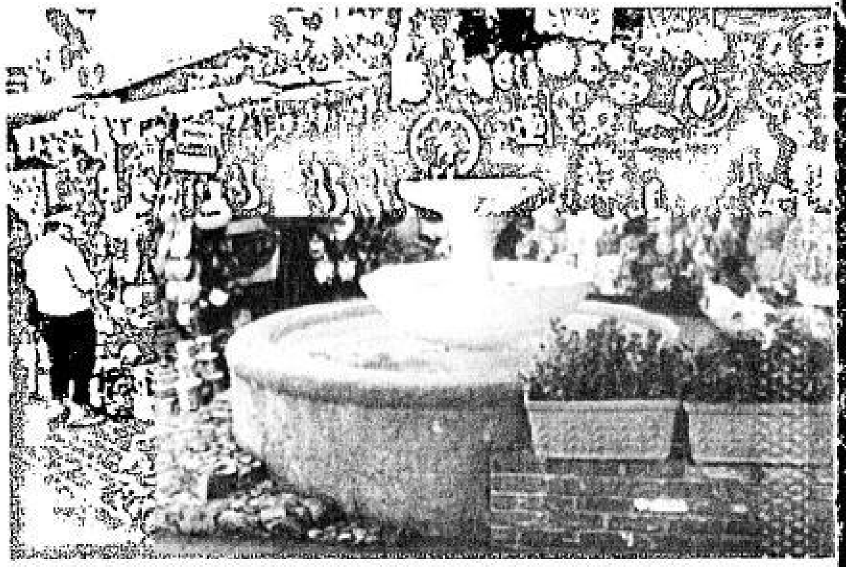
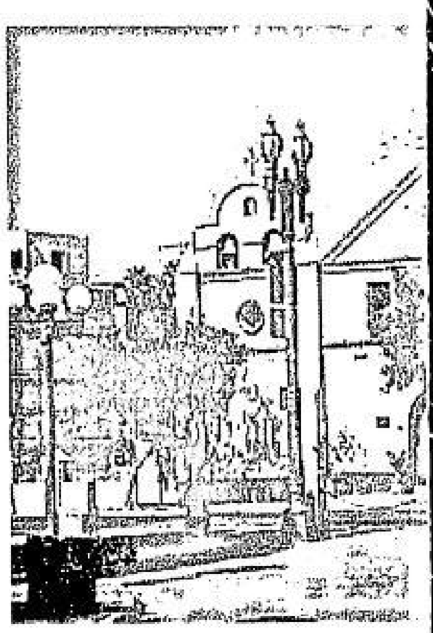


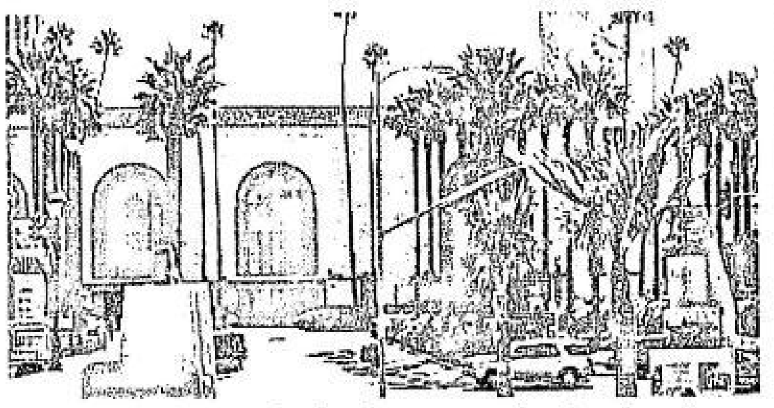


FROM 17 percent in 1980, Latinos now make up 55 percent of LA's populatio
Mexican and Mexican-inspired products imported from various parts of Lati

FORTY years after the city thrived to become a major source of America's political and economic power, LA today is once again at a crossroads.



To live and prosper in LA



THIS historic plaza was the site of a recent pro-immigration rally organized and participated in by LA's burgeoning Latino population.

THE AUTHOR (in a tweed jacket by Frederick Peralta) and fellow journalists Tim Fookes, Kazuyo Nishida and Tanya Wan display their "Certificates of Welcome" during a courtesy call to LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

From page F1

duties in the Pacific passed through Southern California on their way home to various points in the United States. Many were fascinated by the city and its mild, sunny climate that they decided to pack their bags and move to LA with their families.

Such a development paved the way for the rise of a number of manufacturing industries (which relocated overseas years later as labor costs in the US became too costly), particularly in aerospace. Since there were lots of jobs to be had, one didn't have to be a degree holder back then to earn a decent living in LA.

Prosperous period

This period of prosperity, which raised the ranks of the "wealthiest" middle class in US history, was to continue unimpeded up to the late 1960s. Since owning homes was within everybody's reach, LA's current nagging problem of homelessness was virtually unheard of back then.

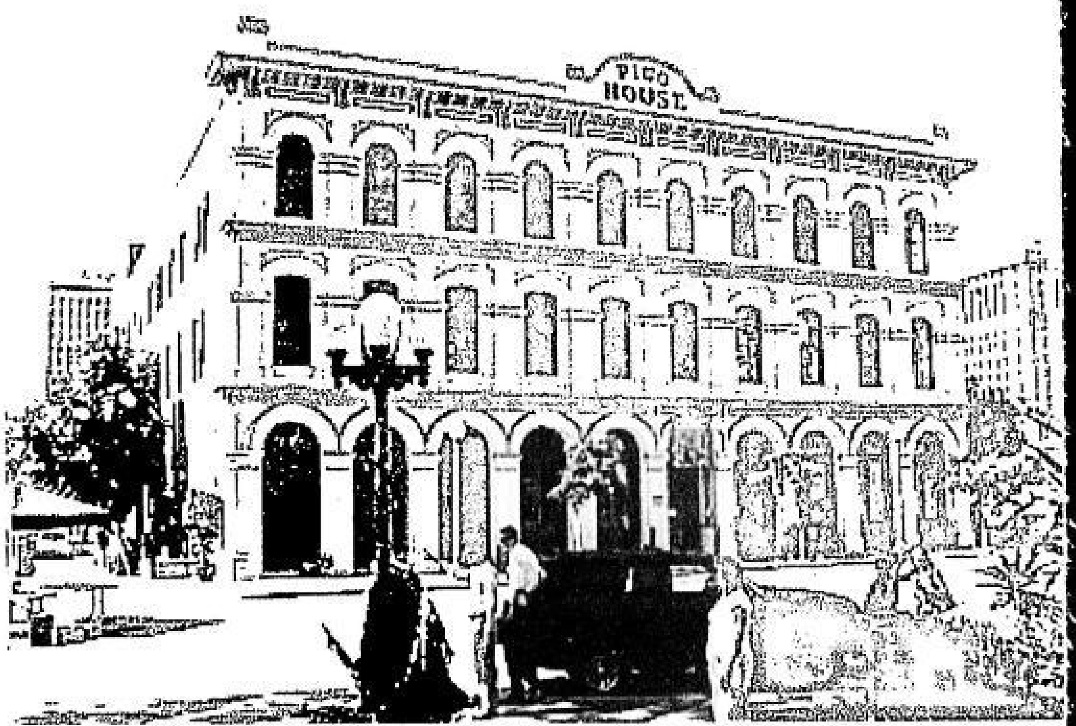
Small wonder, said Guerra, that many foreigners to this day still viewed the Southern Californian lifestyle as the epitome of the American dream. Well, to a certain degree it was 30 years ago.

"We see it happening today in China and in certain cities in the Middle East," he added. "So much wealth is created that within a period of five to 10 years you see economically vibrant cities where everybody is employed."

A similar development happened in LA, where a great deal of American political power and economic might came from, in the 1950s. But unlike certain cities today, LA prepared itself for its coming-out party by building the necessary infrastructure like airports, seaports and freeways long before the boom took place.

Meanwhile, the ensuing decades saw a demographic shift as the number of minorities, particularly Latinos, rose. From 17 percent in 1980, Angelenos of Latino decent now make up 55 percent of the city's population. Spanish translations of English signs and directions say it all.

It was only a matter of time before Latinos successfully flexed their muscles at the polls, and this they finally did last year when the city



THE PICO House, which is now a museum of LA's history, was once the home of Alta California's last governor before it was turned into a hotel.

Lipa and Pagsanjan in one loop

Two historic towns, two great destinations for travellers and the plain curious

Text and photos
by Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

A CATASTROPHIC ERUPTION OF Taal Volcano in 1754 wrought havoc upon lakeshore towns, and changed the map of Batangas at the time.

Its fields destroyed by lava and floodwaters, Lipa was transferred to its present location, where the Augustinian fathers encouraged the cultivation of cacao and coffee that soon pump-primed the economy.

Lipa flourished. But in the 20th century, the days of glory, of balls and soirees, ended with World War II, when the town became a battleground between American and Japanese forces.

Lipeño Bienvenido Lumbera (named National Artist for Literature this year), in a 1983 interview in Celebrity magazine, recalled both the cruelty of the Japanese, as well as the indiscriminate bombing by the Americans: "They bombed, they razed the town completely. At the end of the war, I stood on the main street and could see as far as the *palengke—talagang* flattened."

Today, only a few ancestral homes, well-preserved or decaying, remain in the old districts of the city near the cathedral. These are the *bahay na bato*, great houses of stone and wood, with ornate designs.

There's the Bautista residence and Casa Segunda, proudly proclaiming the year it was constructed: 1880. Adjacent is the Luz-Katigbak Ancestral House, which bears a 1996 National Historical Institute plaque: "This is a heritage house pursuant to Board Resolution No. 4..."

For me, Lipa is also a shrine city. The majestic San Sebastian cathedral, with its dome and towering belfry, was administered by the Augustinians from 1605 to the end of the 19th century.

The nearby shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was the scene of miracles during the late 1940s: "a shower of petals" which, when examined scientifically, were found to originate, inexplicably, from Russia.

Some church authorities then branded the events a hoax but, in time, the miracles were unofficially recognized.

Eventually Lipa prospered again, becoming a modern, bustling city with malls and amenities catering to travelers. These include La Corona de Lipa (tel. 043-7561223), located in front of the new SM City Lipa. It has, among other features, a waste segregation station.

"Managing director Ian Angelo King is very environment-friendly," says assistant manager Grace Garcia Ouano. A long-time resident-guest of the hote David Cleary (screen name: Frank M rill), a colorful, jovial Irish-Canad who, until recently, worked as a stand and as an extra in Hollywood movies.

He has interacted with, among oth Clare Danes, the actress who made paraging remarks about Manila whom Cleary found unfriendly. "Sh not even pretty," he quips.

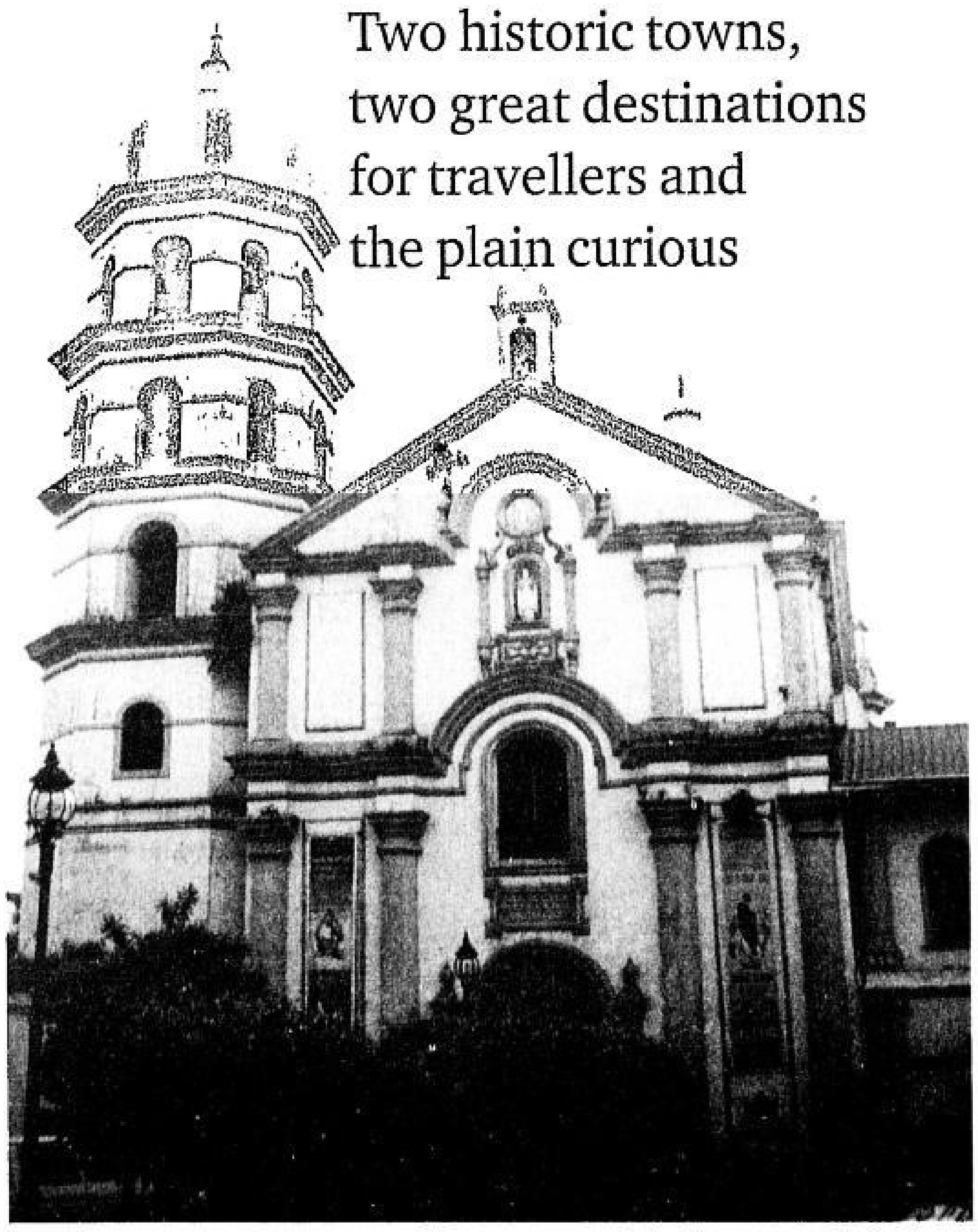
"A hotel room is a hotel room," Cle declares. "What is important to me is staff. And here they treat you well, unl in Paris..."

Pagsanjan

Team-building and challenging ropes are the buzzwords in the lead resort in Pagsanjan, Laguna, La Coro (tel. 049-8081753), which is also a tra ing center.

The tree-laden resort is located ab

LIPA



SAN Sebastian Cathedral in Lipa City

OUTDOOR massage parlor along the Pagsanjan River

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n: This market on Olveira Street, only a short distance away from City Hall, teems with various America and, yes, China.

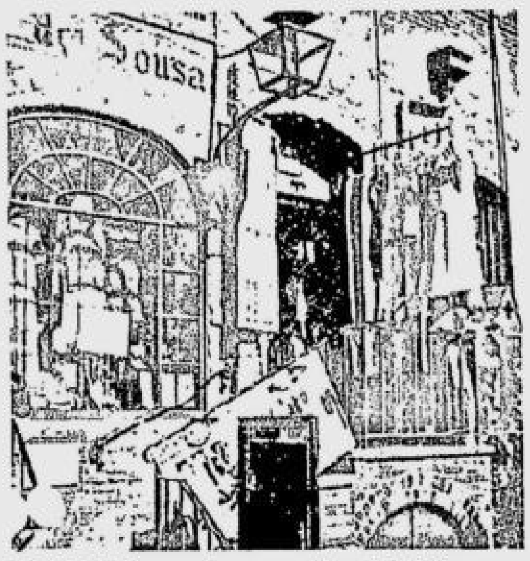
LA IGLESIA Nuestra Señora La Reina de Los Angeles, the oldest church in LA, still stands to this day at El Pueblo.

elected its first Latino mayor in 130 years in the person of Antonio Villaraigosa.

Stereotype

In a reversal of roles, Caucasians have technically become one among many minorities, albeit still a formidable one, comprising 30 percent of the population. Thanks to Hollywood, the stereotype of the blond, blue-eyed Californian lives on.

One bold if inspired attempt to debunk such myths and set the record straight is encapsulated in the documentary "Los Angeles Now" by award-winning filmmaker Phillip Rodriguez.



LATINO influence is very evident in LA, from the fashion to the bilingual signs in English and Spanish.

In keeping with Angelenos' love affair with their cars, the film whizzes by like a drive-by tour of LA's dynamic and constantly changing cityscape and complexion, which has increasingly become more brown than white.

For all the city's purported diversity, a good number of Angelenos are the first to admit at how clueless they are about certain parts of LA and their inhabitants.

Due to the city's sheer size, various groups of Angelenos, within the comforts of their respective cars, manage to keep to themselves without bothering to look at what's happening to other people "over the hedge."

LA County, which is home to 88 cities (including LA), has a population of 10 million and counting. Its land area alone is equivalent to the combined size of such major US cities as—hold your breath—Pittsburgh, Boston, Minneapolis, Saint Louis, Milwaukee, Cleveland and San Francisco.

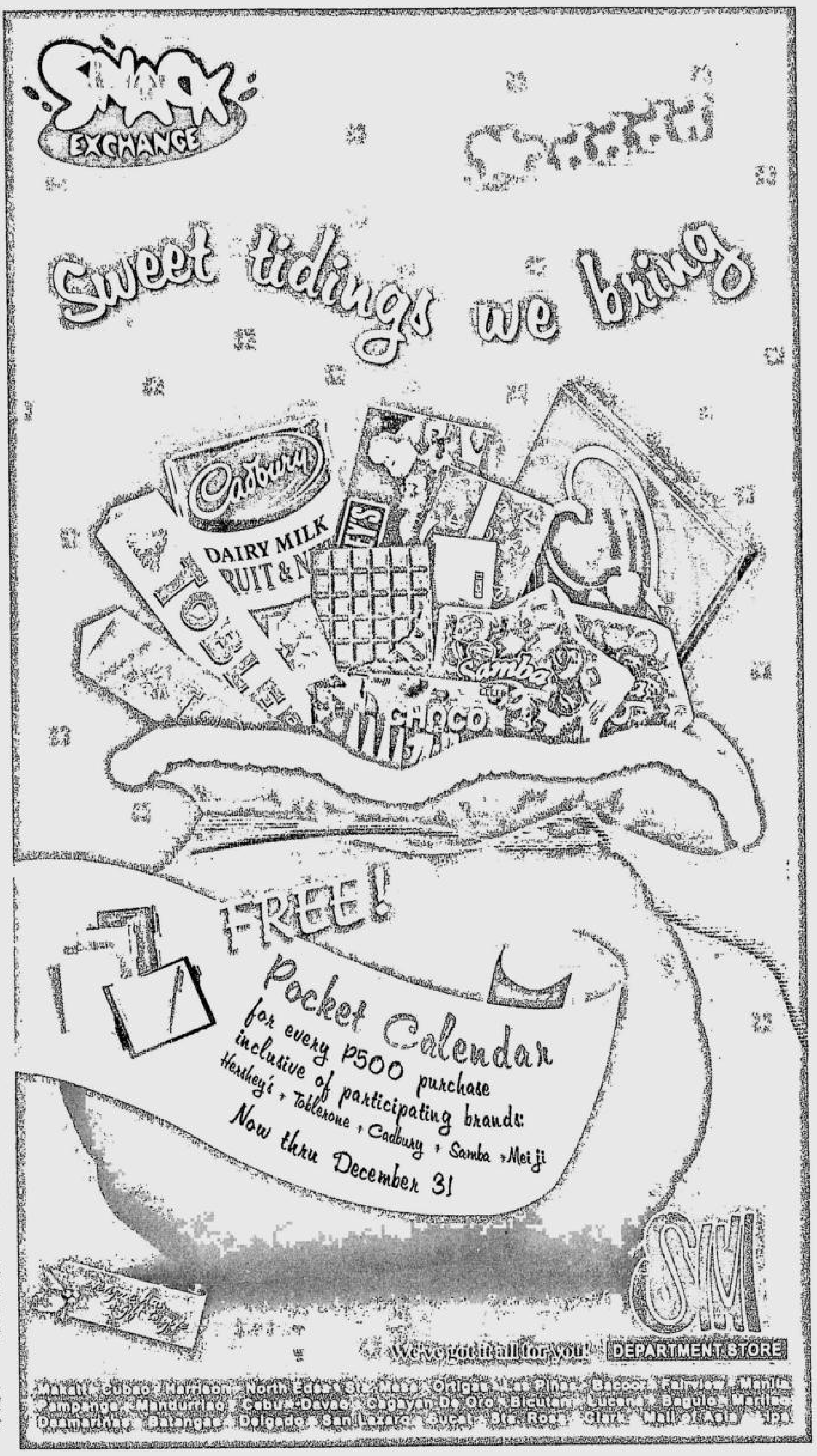
Among the hundreds of mind-numbing scenes Rodriguez captures on screen, a particular image stands out: a yellow sign warning motorists to watch out for people crossing the freeway!

In lieu of a galloping deer's silhouette, the sign features the outline of a man, woman and child—presumably illegals—as they dash toward a new life (or sudden death?) of supposed prosperity in America.

After almost 230 years since the first immigrant families settled in the once-barren hills of Southern California, descendants of those left behind in Mexico (and the Philippines) are still taking their chances on a Los Angeles now far different from what it once was.

The author, together with journalists from China, Japan and New Zealand, recently participated in the inaugural Los Angeles Sister Cities Visiting Journalist Fellowship

E-mail him at avergara@inquirer.com.ph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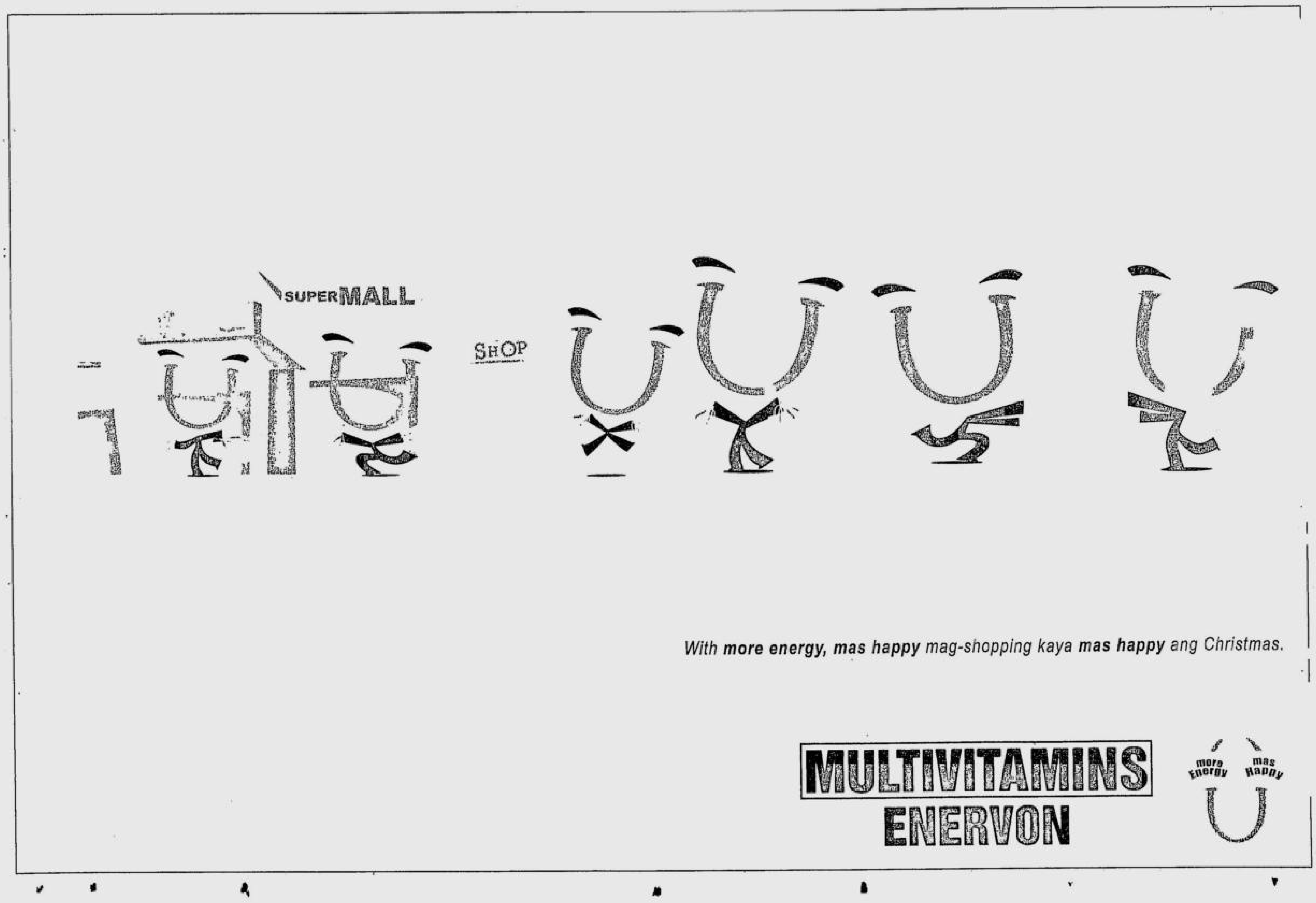
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Lipa and Pagsanjan in one loop

From page F2

MAINTAIN your balance!

the banks of the Pagsanjan River, where you see the boatmen and their passengers, clad in life vests, on their way to shooting the rapids (P665 per).

La Corona de Pagsanjan has cozy cottages, seminar rooms, camping tents for hire, an outdoor massage bed and other amenities common to a tourist-oriented establishment.

For corporate clients, however, the main come-on is team-building through the Ropes Course Challenge, an outdoor adventure learning workshop.

"Each course has a meaning and a value," explains assistant manager Rey Cabunawan. "The objective is to improve camaraderie and form a cohesive unit, and align this to the objectives of the company."

WOOD carvings illustrate scenes from the Bible.

As an example, notes Cabunawan, "faced with each challenge, a team member will think: "*Kaya ko ba ito?*" So it's like a sales quota, it seems unattainable at first, but with perseverance and hard work you can face your fear."

The campsite sprawls over a three-hectare forested terrain and, as you enter, you see signs like "never step on the ropes," "know your buddy and his habits," and "use hand gloves, helmets, harness in doing the high events."

The low events are Spider's Web, Low V (for Victory), Blind Man's Trail, Swinging Log, Tension Traverse, Team Wall and Trust Fall. The high events are High V, Multi-Line Traverse, Slide-for-Life, Cat Walk and Burma Bridge. The ropes used consist of a Diverging Traverse, Loop Traverse and Parallel Traverse.

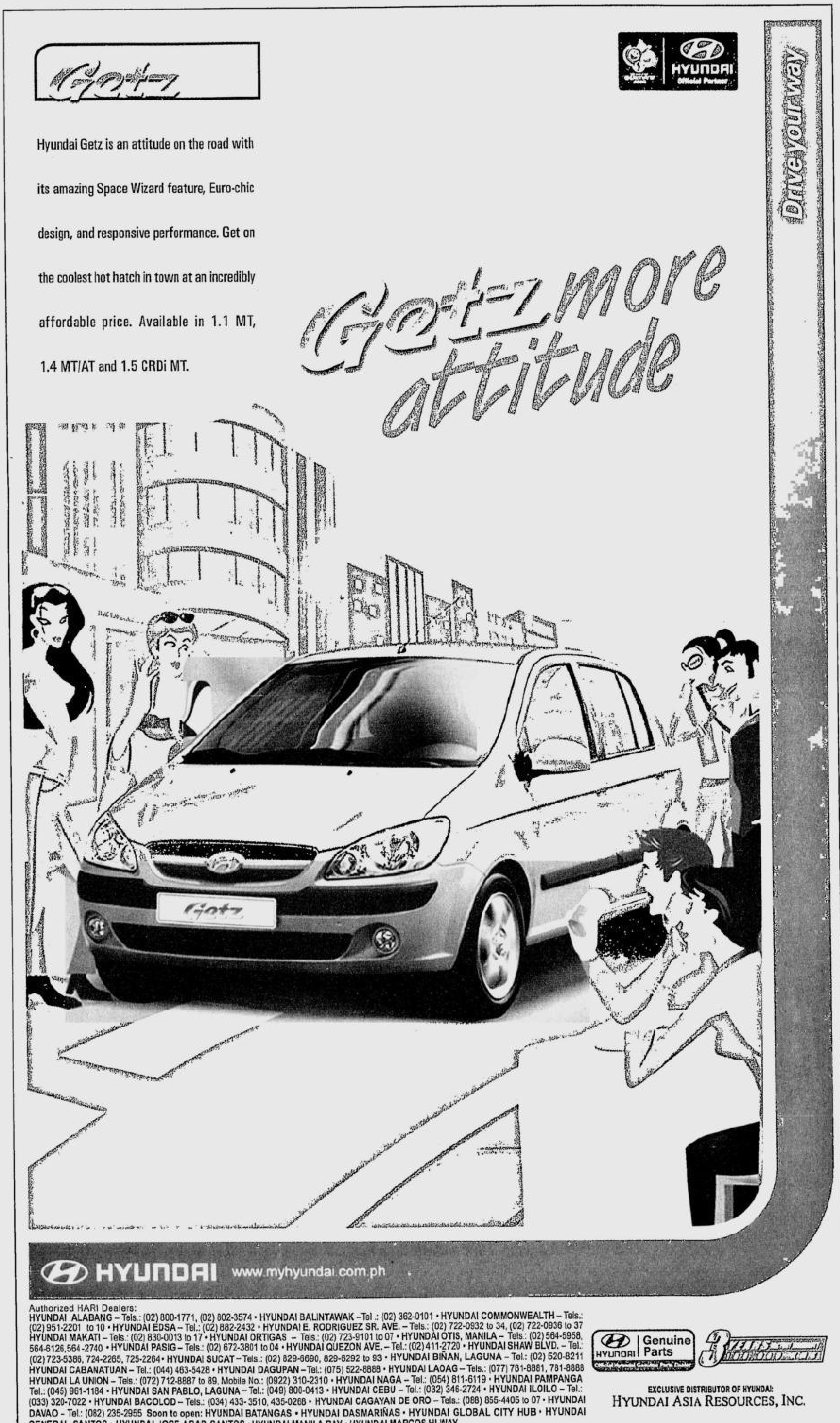
In Low-V, two persons do a balancing act. The Blind Man's Trail requires a participant to guide a blindfolded teammate through an obstacle course. In Burma Road, participants cross from one tree to another 15 feet above ground.

In Trust Fall, a team member falls backward from a five-foot ramp into the waiting hands of his teammates. The graduation event is usually the Team Wall, when all the team members climb to the top of a 12-foot-high vertical wall. Once on top, the participants can no longer help the other teammates still scurrying to the peak.

Not part of the course but also played out in the campsite is the so-called Paint Ball. When I was there, Ateneo de Manila graduate students (including a few foreigners) were undertaking this event, amid whoops and applause.

Two teams in different colors, wearing helmets and armored vests and wielding air guns, shoot one another with rubber paint bullets. The intent is to capture the yellow flag hidden in the camp of the "enemy."

The game has warlike, military overtones. But, as the officers-in-charge pointed out, the objective is just to learn strategy and discipline.



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Launched in October, HARI's Pro Negosyo Movement denotes its standpoint to support the entrepreneurs, particularly those in the Small to Medium Enterprises, who greatly contribute in pushing the country's economy forward. HARI is one with the government in believing that by helping these entrepreneurs who comprise the base of the country's economy, a significant drive towards development can be achieved. Deriving mutual inspiration with this movement is Hyundai's new Starex PRO series that features the family favorite van and Hyundai's flag carrier in the Philippines in a cargo and 3-seater type to cater to the specific needs of the entrepreneurs. Also, with the Pro Negosyo Movement, HARI initiates and participates in different activities that hold up the interests of the entrepreneurs.

The Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship's Go Negosyo for OFWs and Balikbayans is one of the activities where HARI takes active participation as part of its Pro Negosyo Movement. The three-day affair will be held at Market! Market!, Fort Bonifacio Taguig. Different activities are in store for the OFWs and the balikbayans such as concerts, raffles, and entertainment shows. The highlights of the event are the series of forums which will offer many business opportunities for the OFWs.

An exhibit of different business ideas will also be held at the Go Negosyo event. In this, HARI will display the Starex PRO, which can serve as the ideal partner of the entrepreneur in his different business activities particularly in the transportation aspect.

Other activities that Hyundai initiated with the Pro Negosyo Movement are the business forums which were held in different Hyundai dealers. The business forums aimed to educate the entrepreneurs on how to take their business to the next level, with the expertise of its speaker, Entrepreneur Guru Andy Ferreria. Further, HARI also donated one unit of the Starex PRO to Gawad Kalinga in support of its Pangkabuhayan projects.

With these, HARI hopes to make a contribution in helping improve the quality of lives of the people, and ultimately, of the economy. Living out their corporate mantra, Innovations for Humanity, does not stop with delivering quality automobiles and services to the people, but also extends to their corporate social responsibility to make a difference in the lives of the people.

ADVT

Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

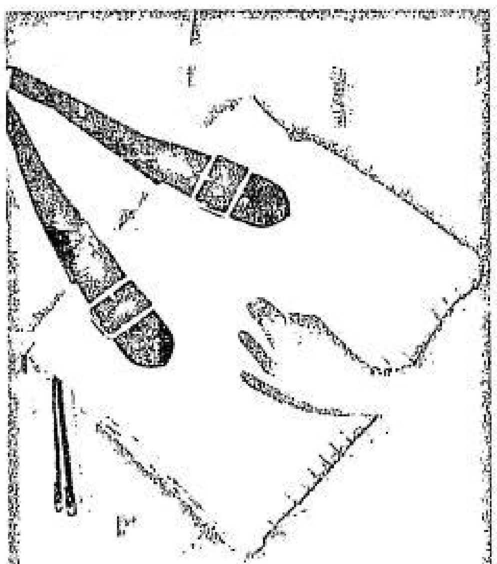
Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

REGINA

Segue to Christmas

UCB Spy

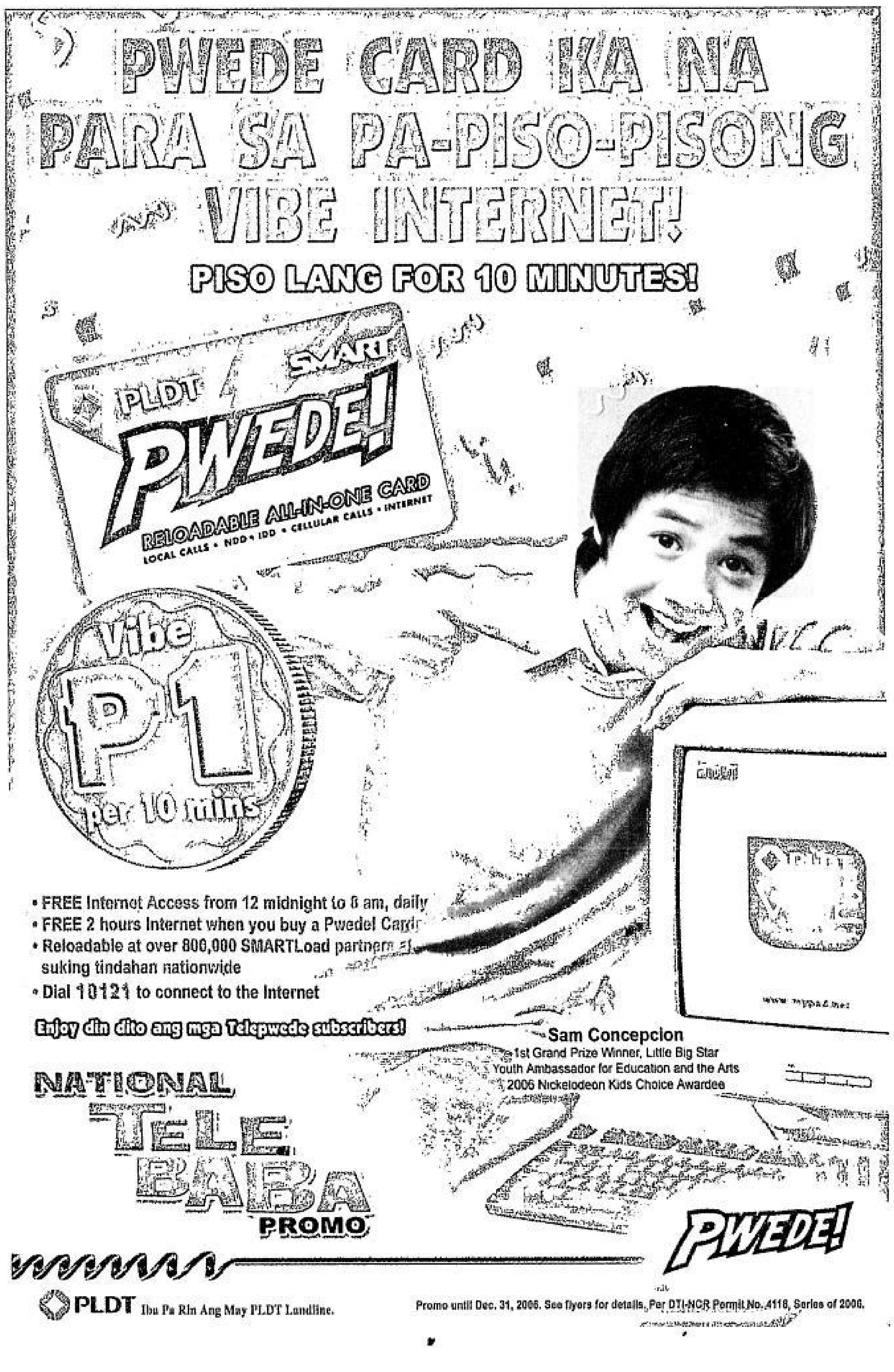
NO NEED TO WAIT FOR THE after Christmas sale! The Fall-Winter 2006 Collections of United Colors of Benetton, Sisley and Segue has fast forwarded to Christmas. The big bags are fashionable and ideal for the tons of stuff ladies put in their bags especially during the Christmas season. The prettiest lightweight bags in the market today are in all the Segue shops in Glorietta 2 and Megamall Bldg A and all Gift Gates at Segue-to-Christmas sale prices!



SISLEY Stick

GRIFFIN

UCB Griffin



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SRP P3,100.00 PROMO PRICE P2,280.00

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THE FIRST?
Philippine Idol
OLISEUM

WHO WILL BE THE FIRST?

Philippine Idol

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The Hunky Idol.
Isang prinsipe pero may
kulang sa buhay niya.
Ito na kaya ang hinahanap niya?

MAU MARCELO

The Soul Idol.
Laging pinipintasan ang kanyang itsura.
Mapatunayan na kaya niya ang tunay
niyang ganda?

GIAN MAGDANGAL

The [illegible] Idol.
Nawala[illegible] lahat sa kanya.
Maba[illegible] ang lahat
ng sina[illegible] niya?

MAMAYANG 9PM!

MALALAMAN NA ANG HATOL NG BAYAN!

THE BIG 3 AT THE BIG DOME!
FINAL RESULTS NIGHT!

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Iba Tayo!

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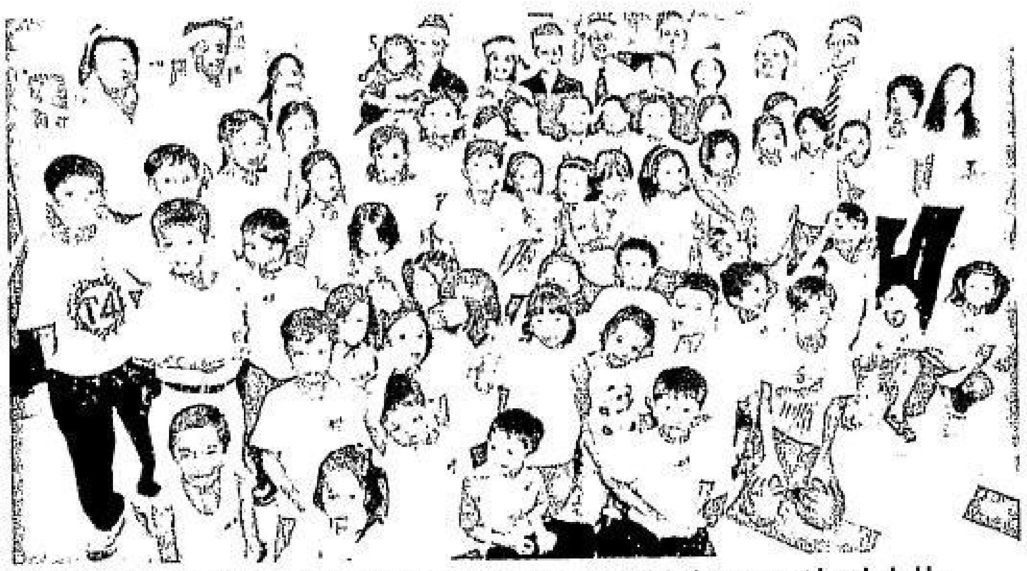
Suportahan ang IDOL MO!

WEAR: YELLOW FOR MAU
ORANGE FOR GIAN
BLUE FOR JAN



HOLIDAY Inn Galleria Manila and Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila's department heads, led by regional manager Paul Rene Lee (fourth from left), pose with the children from Cardinal Sin Village.

Hotels join coin drive for Sta. Ana community

THE SMILES in their faces show they are having fun.

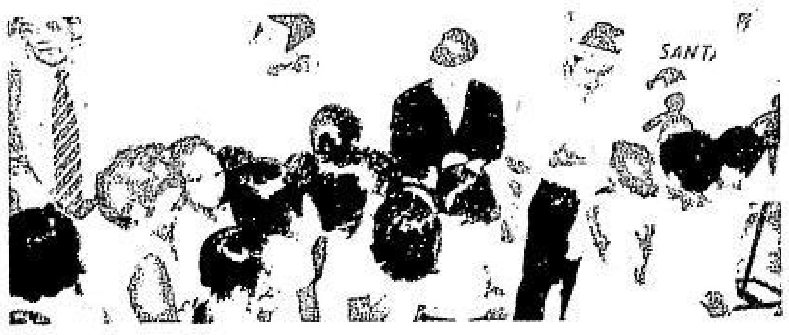
HOLIDAY INN GALLERIA MANILA AND Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila Hotels are supporting Robinsons Malls' The Gift of Change coin bank donation campaign.

The project will help provide for the needs of residents of Cardinal Sin Village in Punta, Sta. Ana.

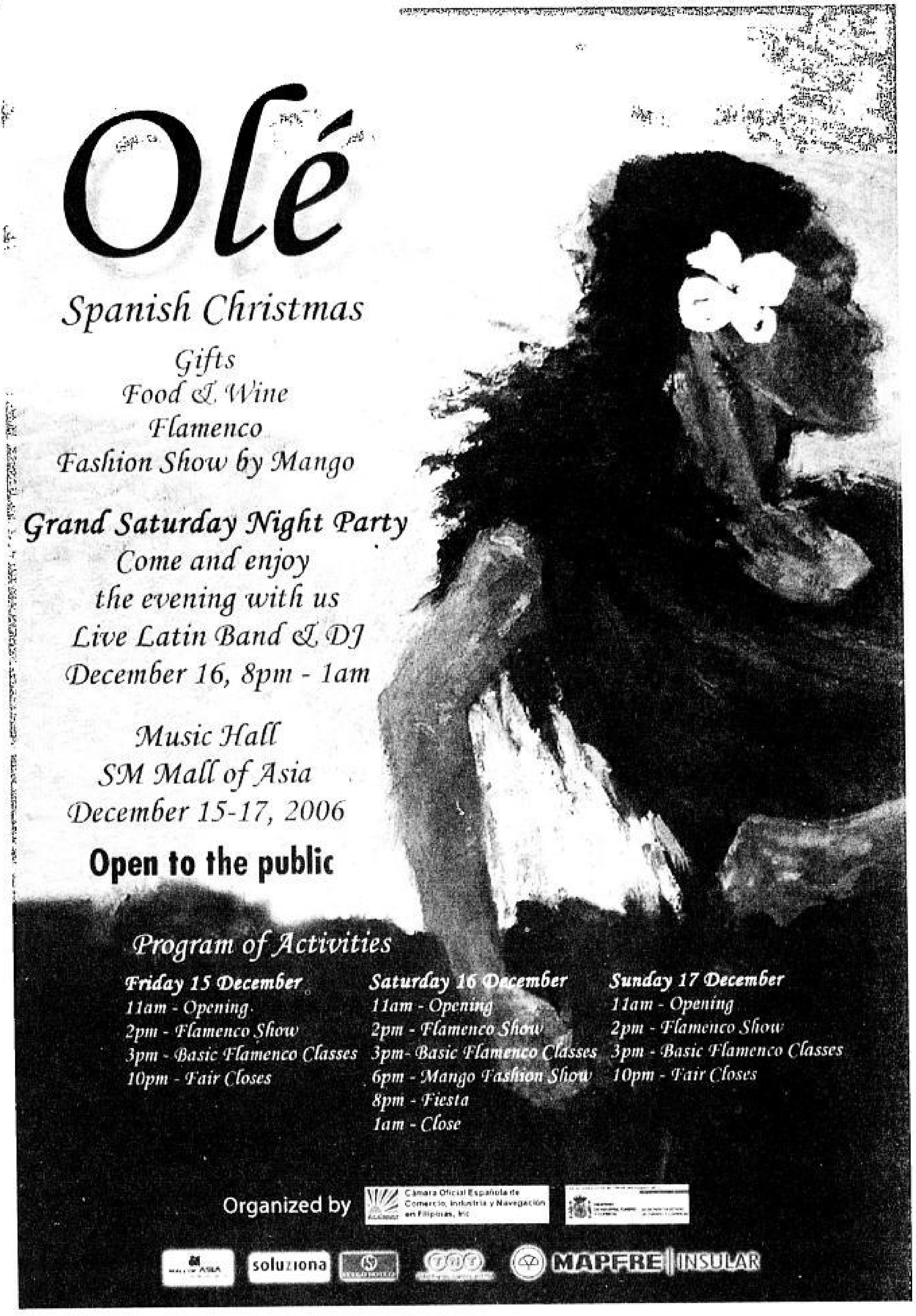
It is a joint undertaking of Robinsons Land Corporation's (RLC) commercial centers and hotels division.

Paul Rene Lee, the hotels' regional general manager, and other hotel executives personally distributed food packs and loot bags to children during an afternoon party at Tom's World Party Room, Robinsons Galleria. The hotels also donated boxes of linens, towels and beddings.

RLC owns and operates commercial centers, residential and office condominiums, townhouses, housing and subdivisions, and hotels all over the Philippines. It is the largest office-space landlord in the country today.



KIDS fall in line to receive gifts from Santa.



Olé

Spanish Christmas

Gifts
Food & Wine
Flamenco
Fashion Show by Mango

Grand Saturday Night Party
Come and enjoy
the evening with us
Live Latin Band & DJ
December 16, 8pm - 1am

Music Hall
SM Mall of Asia
December 15-17, 2006

Open to the public

Program of Activities

Friday 15 December	Saturday 16 December	Sunday 17 December
11am - Opening	11am - Opening	11am - Opening
2pm - Flamenco Show	2pm - Flamenco Show	2pm - Flamenco Show
3pm - Basic Flamenco Classes	3pm- Basic Flamenco Classes	3pm - Basic Flamenco Classes
10pm - Fair Closes	6pm - Mango Fashion Show	10pm - Fair Closes
	8pm - Fiesta	
	1am - Close	

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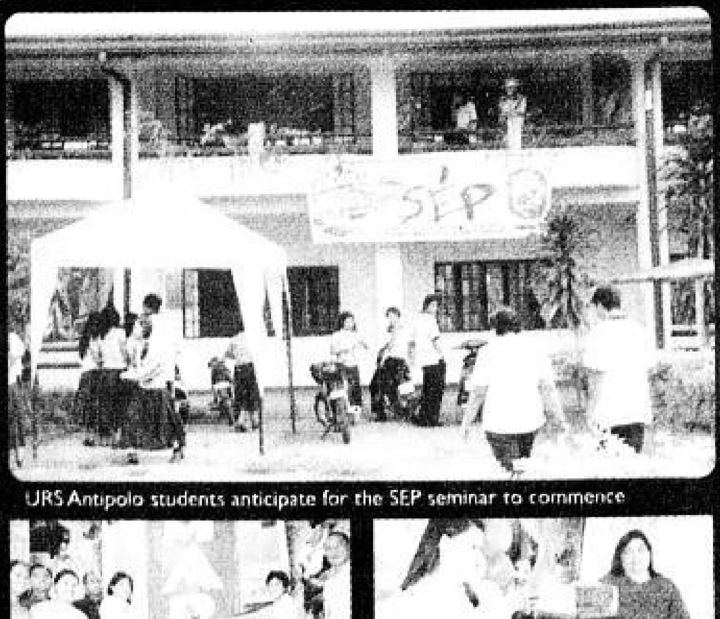
The SEP-URS
Entrepreneurial Fusion

The University of Rizal Systems can't help but jump in the entrepreneur bandwagon as the Smart Entrepreneurial Program revs up in full gear on two URS locations: Morong and Antipolo.



URS Antipolo students anticipate for the SEP seminar to commence

Graced with a warm welcoming from URS students and administration, SEP was greatly appreciated for all its Smart Entrepreneurial guidelines and actual effort in encouraging the students to start-up their own business ventures now.

Exclusively intended for students, the SEP seminar shows the benefits of becoming sales agents for SMART – be it SMART Buddy or SMART Bro, and how such a small investment can yield huge earnings.

"I learned that I could engage in small business as a head start while studying and earn an income that would suffice for my educational endeavors and all it should take is a strong will and determination. The seminar gave me a clear view of starting a small efficient business." – **Carlos Rivera, URS Morong Economics student**

"SEP has motivated me to act on things in the present perspective with optimism." **Joel Dimulog, URS Antipolo Management student**

Students of URS Morong try out the SMART Bro computer station

And so SEP marches on, spreading the winning and viable option of entrepreneurship to each and every student who wills to make a difference now.

Watch out as the SEP gang rolls in to your campuses soon!

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Santa delivers

TRADER HOTEL'S SANTA IS ALL SET to deliver Christmas Gift Hampers this season.

The basket is filled with an assortment of goodies and is available in three sizes to choose: small at P250 net, medium at P1,200 net and large at P1,800 net. Prices do not include delivery charges. Call 5237011 local 2402 or visit the Gingerbread House at the lobby.

SM Storyland
WISH KO TO NGAYONG PASKO!
Storyland 10 ANNIVERSARY
TEN FUN-TASTIC YEARS!

MEET & GREET SANTA CLAUS
Talk to St. Niclaus and have your photos taken.
(SM Fairview, Dec. 10, 16, 23, 24 & 25
SM San Lazaro, Dec. 3, 17, 24 & 25
& SM Southmall, Dec. 9, 17, 23, 24 & 25)

A MERRY MAKING CHRISTMAS
Watch festive shows,
join arts & crafts and fun games.
Listen to the Sights & Sounds of Christmas
by the SM Storyland Carolers.
Arts & Crafts
Dec. 9 - SM Fairview • Dec. 10 - SM Southmall
Juggling Show
Dec. 9 - SM Southmall • Dec. 10 - SM Fairview

A CARNIVAL CHRISTMAS CLUBBIE PARTY
A fun-filled afternoon for the entire family.
See acrobats, contortionist, roving stilt
walkers and an exciting animal show.
Get a chance to win prizes and surprises.
(December 16 - Saturday at SM Fairview
December 17 - Sunday at SM Southmall
SM San Lazaro, SM Marilao, SM Cebu and SM Batangas
December 23 - Saturday at SM Iloilo)

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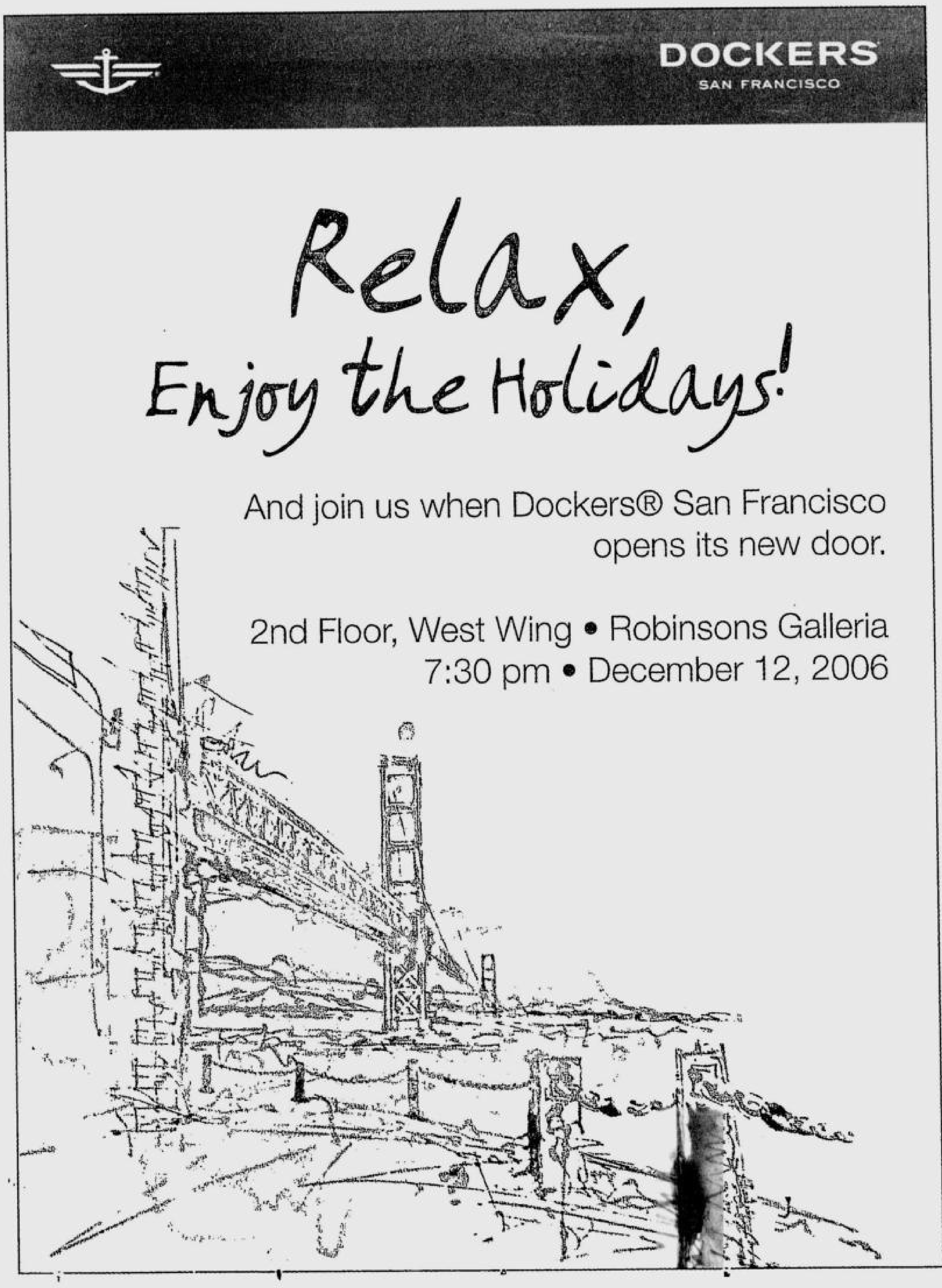

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2nd Floor, West Wing • Robinsons Galleria
7:30 pm • December 12, 2006

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

Spendthrift wife has OFW thinking of divorce

DEAR EMILY,

I am an OFW in my early 40s and unhappy with my second wife.

I had a live-in relationship from 1987-1993 and we had three kids. I ended the relationship because she was unfaithful to me, and she mishandled the money I sent her.

I first worked in Saudi Arabia in 1992. Two vacations in a row, she did not show me our bank account. On my first vacation she told me our bank account had zero balance and on my next vacation she said she lost the passbook.

I also saw many compromising pictures of her with a man known to prey on women whose husbands worked overseas. It took me a while to get my kids from her. In 1998, I finally got them.

She now has two kids of her own by another man 22 years her junior. This mother of my children has not shown any concern for our kids even when one of them figured in an accident.

In 2000, I met another woman through the Internet. We became friends and fell in love in cyberspace. She agreed to look at the state of my kid's health and give me feedback. I married her in 2002.

Everything seemed fine in the beginning, except for the initial negative reaction of my mother and children toward her. My friends said I married her only so my children could have a caregiver. My mother said she was only after remittances.

Slowly, she won the heart of my children. I felt good about it. I thought I was finally being compensated for all my past heartaches.

In 2004, my problems started again when a section of our house was rented by a candidate who was a friend of my wife's family. She helped in his campaign and was constantly out of the house till early morning.

The campaign was long over but she still stayed out of the house until late in the evening. She said the P65,000 I sent every month was not enough to pay for the bills and my children's education.

I brought my family to Palawan because I thought it was more affordable than Manila. The P65,000 was a lot more than the P35,000 I used to send when they were still in Manila.

She says she has gone into insurance, multilevel marketing, etc.

Our finances are so bad that I opened a separate account for my other children so they'll have money for school. This made my second wife angry.

As a result, I am sending more money each month and even borrowing heavily from a fellow Filipino in Saudi who charges a five percent monthly interest.

I want to divorce her but the thought of leaving my nine-month-old daughter with her is killing me. The Holy Bible says a man cannot divorce his wife for any reason other than adultery.

How do I save my life?

PROBLEMATIC OFW

What is it about some spouses of OFWs that they think that the money sent to them from abroad grows abundantly on trees?

It's not only wives though who fool around when their husbands are away. Some husbands of OFWs also create their own horror stories!

Is it the loneliness of not having anyone around? Or is it the intoxication of having so much money when there was none before?

You, sir, are caught between a rock and a hard place. If you continue sending that precious money, your choice is giving it to the devil or throwing it into the deep blue sea! Same, same.

Want to change the spending habit of your family? Initiate the change yourself!

Since you come home for vacation anyway, make arrangements with the bank or a very trusted friend to pay your monthly bills like water, electricity, cable. Then go to the school of your kids and ask the registrar to bill you directly for their tuition fees.

Talk to your kids seriously and ask them to conserve their monthly allowance. Tell them to stick to it. Don't give more than they need.

Then set a strict budget for this extravagant wife of yours. Think of divorce after you've cleaned up this mess. Put your family on a tight leash and don't make them feel like they have a pension from the lottery office every month.

No amount of hair-pulling will solve your problem. Since this financial hemorrhage is likely to continue whether you like it or not, put the brakes in their spending yourself and make the change you want happen.

Put everybody on a money diet and see if they care enough to save for their own future. Doesn't your wife realize she cannot be swimming in this kind of money forever? Can't she see tomorrow in her crystal ball?

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. *Listen to Ms. Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.*

Mobile phone service offers special Christmas package

SUN CELLULAR, WITH Nokia, is giving away cash prizes to lucky Sun Group Plans and Load-Up, Own-a-Phone subscribers this Christmas.

Until Dec. 31, all new subscriptions under Sun Group Plans 999, 899 and 699, and Load-up, Own-a-Phone for Nokia handsets are automatically entitled to electronic raffle entries for a chance to win as much as P100,000 in the grand raffle draw.

Consolation prizes ranging from P5,000-P50,000 may also be won during the preliminary and grand raffle draws.

Group Plan 999 offers three free handsets and postpaid lines, for a monthly service fee of P999. Group Plan 899 offers two free handsets and postpaid lines, for a monthly service fee of P899. Group Plan 699 offers three Nokia 1112 handsets and postpaid lines, for a monthly service fee of P699.

Sun Cellular's Load-Up, Own-A-Phone deal subscriptions come in P250 and P350 monthly fixed loads with a free handset. Subscribers may also avail themselves of Sun Cellular's Unlimited services. These offers have a 24-month holding period.

Visit The Sun Shop nearest you or call the hotline via 200 (using a Sun Cellular line) or 3958000.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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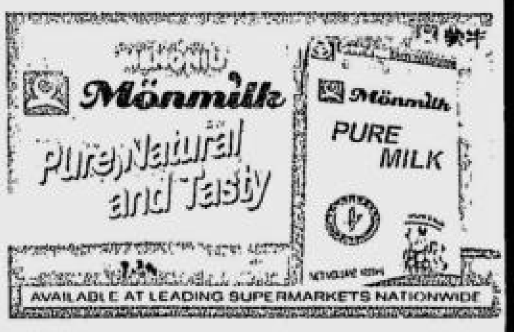
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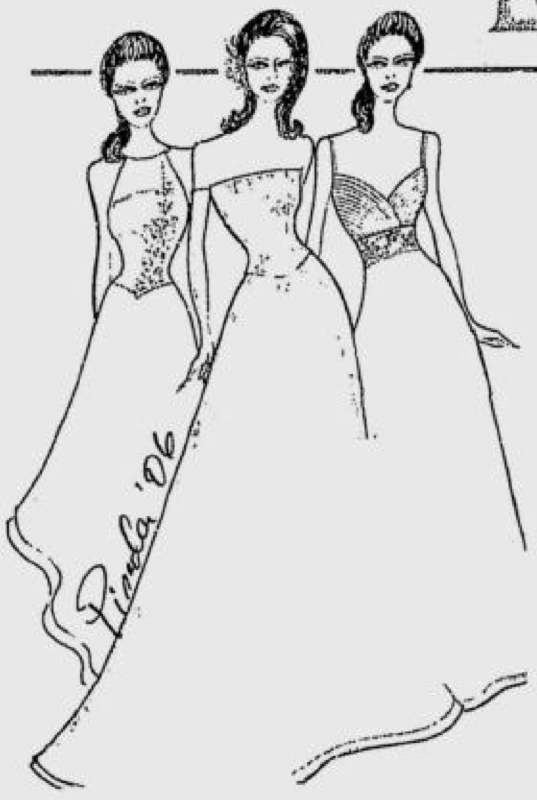
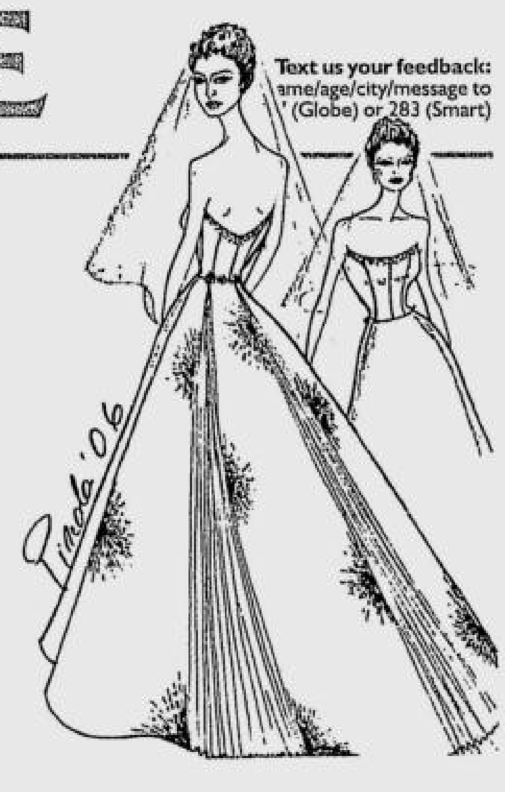


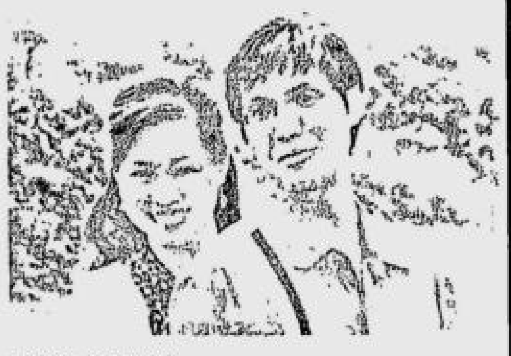


Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*

VELEZ DEBUT

Kristine Velez, daughter of **Jim** and **Lolit Velez**, will celebrate her 18th birthday with a dinner-dance on Dec. 16 at the Fernwood Gardens, Quezon City. **Eric Pineda** designed three gowns for the debutante.



NGO-CHUA

Nelson Ngo, son of **Peter** and **Rubi Ngo**, will wed **Bernadeth Chua**, daughter of **Eddie** and **Emelinda Chua**, on Dec. 17 at Central United Methodist Church, T.M. Kalaw. Reception will follow at Gloria Maris Restaurant, CCP Complex. **Eric Pineda** designed the bride's gown in ivory silk duchess satin.

LAPIDEZ-NAVARRA

Jennifer Clementir Navarra, daughter of **Rolando S. Navarra** and **Aurelia Clementir**, tied the knot recently with **Balve Leopoldo Lapidez**, son of **Baltazar Lapidez** and **Veronica Leopoldo**, at the St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Jaro, Iloilo City. Reception followed at the Sunset Terraces at Hotel del Rio, Iloilo City.

BUENA-LAGMAN

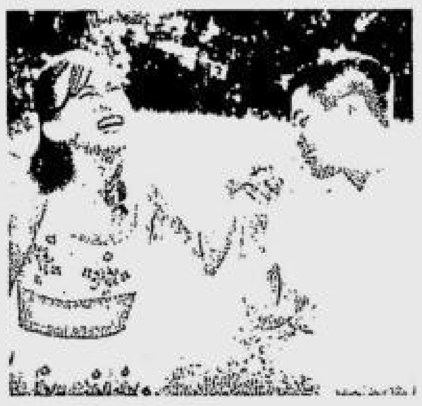
Philip Manalo Buena, son of **Norberto** and lawyer **Teofista Buena**, and **Chiqui Mamaril Lagman**, daughter of **Juancho** and **Brigette Lagman**, were married recently at the Capitol City Baptist Church.

PADILLA-ARCIBAL

Jeffrey Padilla, son of **Adolfo** and **Charito Padilla** will wed **Marigirl Arcibal**, daughter of Col. **Regalado** (ret.) and **Shirley Arcibal**, on Dec. 16 at the Molave Pavilion, Bluroze Farms, Parks and Wildlife, Lodlod, Lipa City. Reception will follow at the Salo-Salo Dining Hall, BFPW.

CANLAS-PASCUAL

Max R. Canlas and **Pearl F. Pascual** will exchange vows on Dec. 30 at the San Antonio de Padua Parish Church. Reception will follow at Palms Country Club, Filinvest, Alabang.



NILES-LIM UY

Pierre Bienvenido Niles will tie the knot with **Stephanie Lim Uy** Dec. 22 at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart. A beach-inspired reception, styled by Balay Kandila, will follow at the Rockwell Loft. Both bride and groom will wear clothes by **Frankie de Leon.**

BAESA-ROQUE

Rafael R. Baesa and **Adoracion M. Roque** will wed on Dec. 23 at Immaculate Conception Minor Seminary chapel, Tabe, Guiguinto, Bulacan. Reception will follow at the seminary gym. Rev. Fr. **Fernando Cenon** will officiate.

SIA-REYES

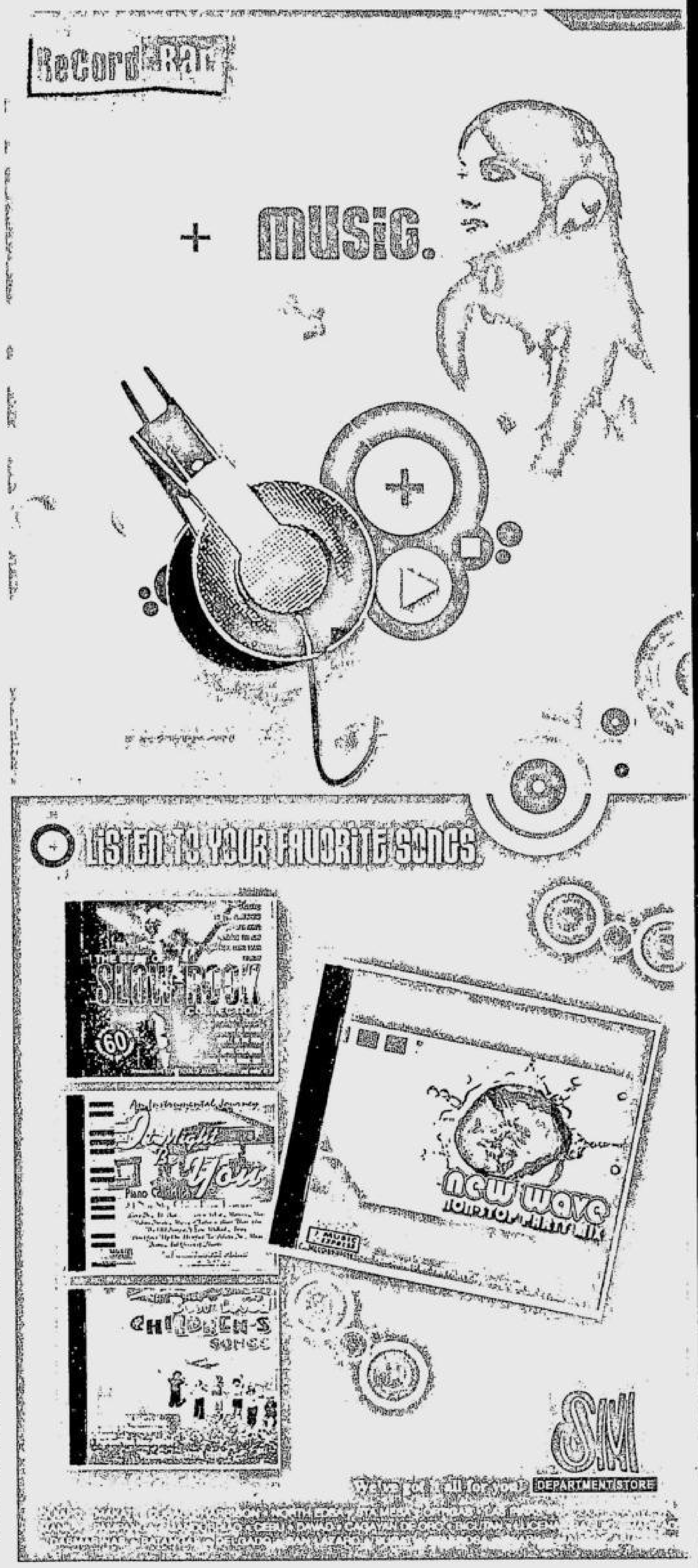
Dr. **Jan Harold Sia**, son of **Santiago** and Dr. **Rosita Sia**, will wed Dr. **Pia Natalya Reyes**, daughter of Doctors **Baltazar** and **Marita Reyes**, on Dec. 30 at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros. Reception will follow at Father Blanco's Garden. **Rem Divino** designed and executed the gowns of the bride and her entourage.

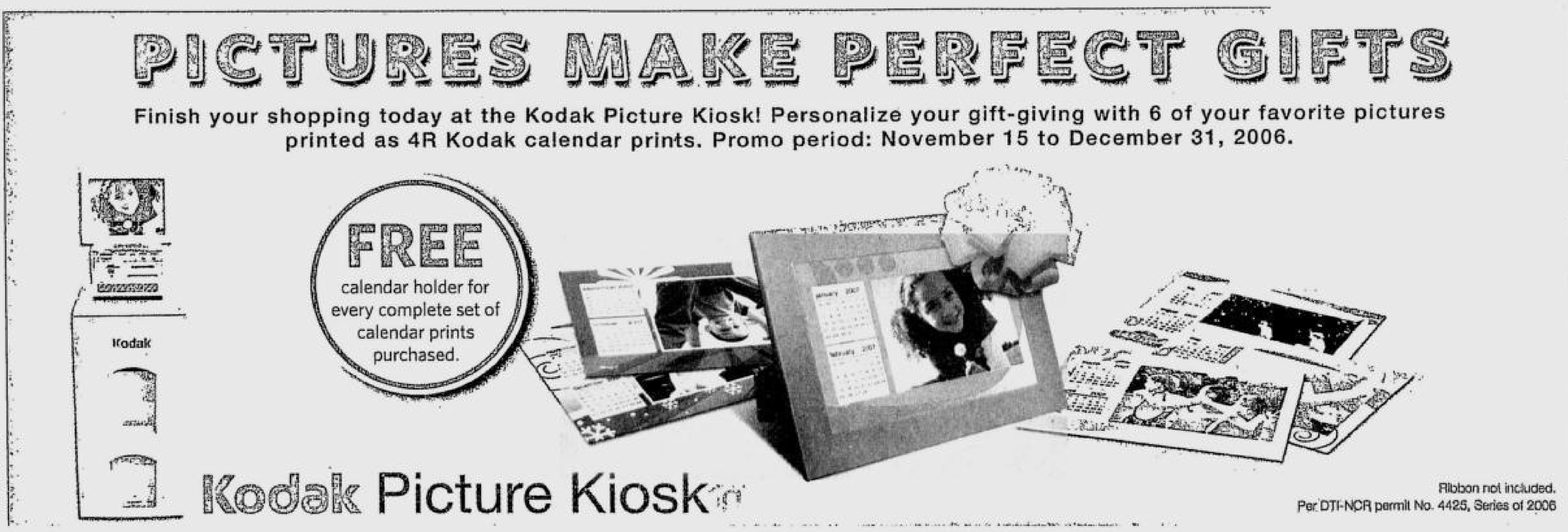
BICO-JOCSON

Jose Bico Jr., son of lawyer **Jose** and **Norma Bico**, will wed **Mylene Jocson**, daughter of **Victoriano** and **Ofelia Jocson**, on Jan. 19 at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, Reclamation Area, Pasay City. Reception follows at Pope John Paul II Youth Center (Shrine of Jesus Hall), Reclamation Area, Pasay City.

RIPA-LEYNES

Dennis Ripa, son of Mr. and Ms **Mario Ripa**, and Reggie Leynes, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Rodrigo Leynes**, will exchange vows Dec. 16, 10 a.m., at the San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City, Batangas. Reception will follow at El Grande Residencia Hotel and Resort. The bride's gown is designed by **Monique Luo**.


ReCord Bar
+ music.
LISTEN TO YOUR FAVORITE SONGS
SM DEPARTMENT STORE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WITH Enrique Chua and Michael Tan

ORMER Rep. Edith Villanueva, Sen. Nikki Coseteng, Sheila and Mayor Eric Saratan, Mayor ynthia de la Cruz, Dr. Hector Torre and former Gov. Daniel Lac

THE YAP family: Aileen Ann, Vicky, the couple, Eddie, Eduard Victor and Bryan Yap

Negros' wedding of the decade

By Radjie Caram Jr.
Contributor

NEGROS IS MORE THAN ITS sprawling *haciendas* and ancestral mansions. Behind the glamour of Negrense social gatherings are the sweet smiles of these genteel people.

Just recently, Talisay's most eligible bachelor, Mayor Eric Saratan, M.D., tied the knot with Travel Lounge heiress and Chinese porcelain beauty Sheila Yap in what was tagged by local dailies as the biggest wedding in Negros' history. It was a fairy-tale night filled with love, opulence and grandeur, where heirloom jewelry sparkled as their equally elegant bearers. Ladies of the distinguished set looked their best in designer gowns, while the men in their finest *barongs*.

The wedding of weddings was held at the Queen of Peace Church with Bishop Camilo Gregorio as the main celebrant. It was the bride's dream wedding come true.

Sheila was lovely and regal in her intricately embroidered gown done in shades of bone and ecru, embellished with Swarovski crystals and crystal beads in lavish fabric of duchess satin and Swiss organza. Her *panuelo* was delicately handcrafted with floral embroidery and also embellished with crystals. It was another Tony de Ramos masterpiece. She walked down the aisle like a princess toward the arms of her waiting prince.

The highest social event of the milieu saw attendance of more than a thousand of Negros' finest families, economic, political and civic leaders. Some guests jetted in from China, America and various capital cities of the Philippines, including Asia Brewery and Philippine Airlines' young Taipan, and the youngest sponsor, Michael Tan, son of tycoon Lucio Tan, who arrived with his whole family. Sheila and Michael share a special friendship as both used to have good fun together, with both their families sharing that special bond of friendship.

The couple enjoys a certain degree of community recognition and importance as Sheila is the daughter of renowned entrepreneurs Eddie and Vicky Yap, scions of one of Bacolod's biggest and most admired Chinese clans—the influential Sy and Yap families. The groom, meanwhile, is one of Talisay's most loved public servants who rose from the ranks—from councilor to vice mayor to mayor. He is the son of the late Tito and Nenita Saratan.

Among the big names of Philippine high society who stood as sponsors were: Gretchen Cojuangco; Henry So Uy, executive VP and special executive to the chair of Philippine Airlines; Sen. Manuel Villar; Iloilo Mayor Gerry Trenas; Gov. Joseph Maranon; Mayor Cynthia de la Cruz; former Gov. Daniel Lacson; Mayor Carlo Gamban; Dr. Hector Torre of Dr. Torre Medical Center; Ofelia Manaloto; Anita Chua; Enrique Chua; Kees Koelman; Dr. Carlitos Magno; Michelle Jalandoni; Lourdes Javelosa; Angela de Leon; Dr. Claudio Saratan; Teresita Lizares; Mary Sy; former Rep. Edith Villanueva.

St. John's Activity Center, the reception venue, was draped with tons of off-white billowing fabric. Guests were greeted at the entrance by a *hacienda* setup complete with plants, old cart wheels and antique wooden furniture. The presidential main table was a royal setup for 60 persons. Candles, flowers and a *hacienda*-inspired centerpieces added to the drama.

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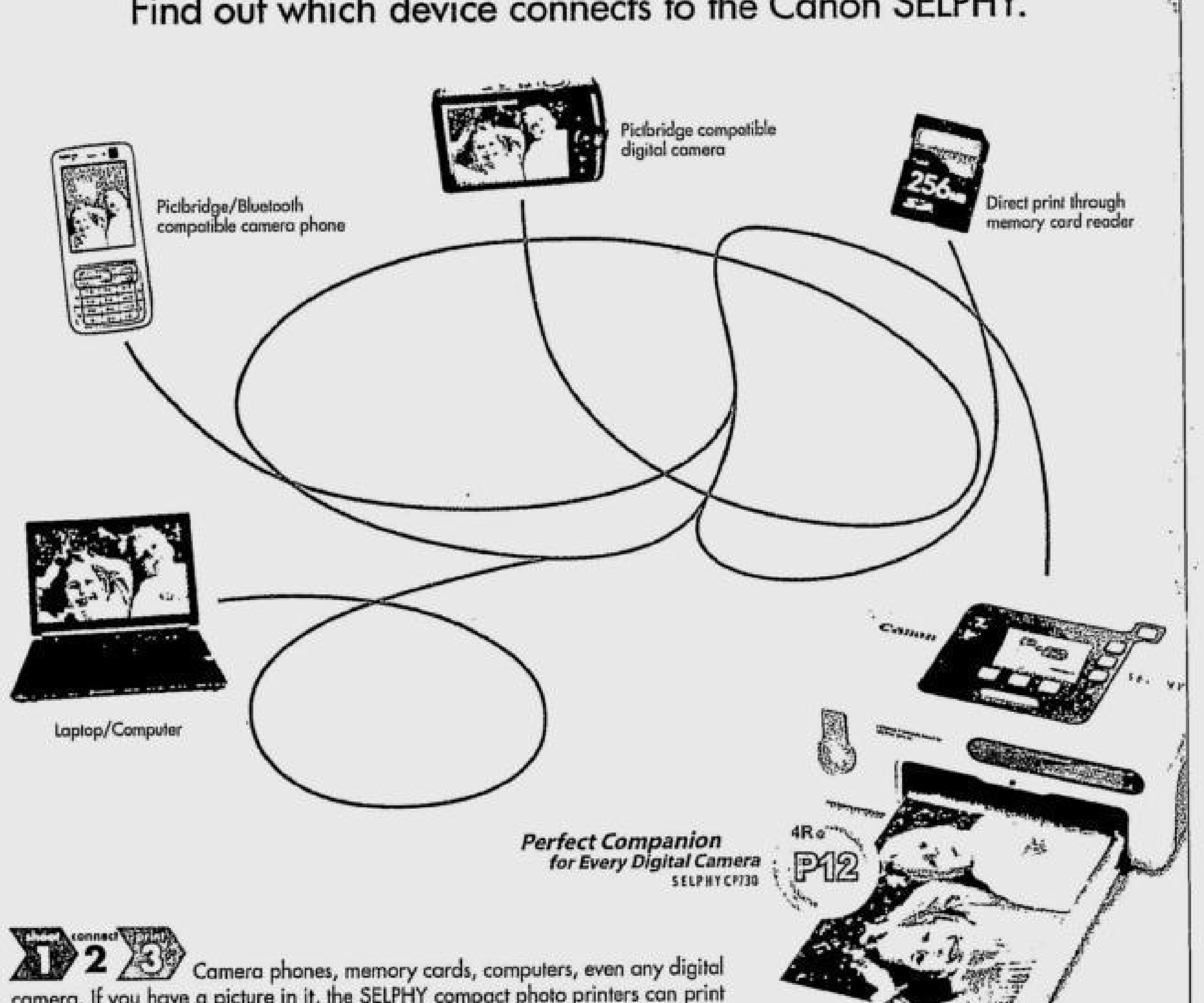
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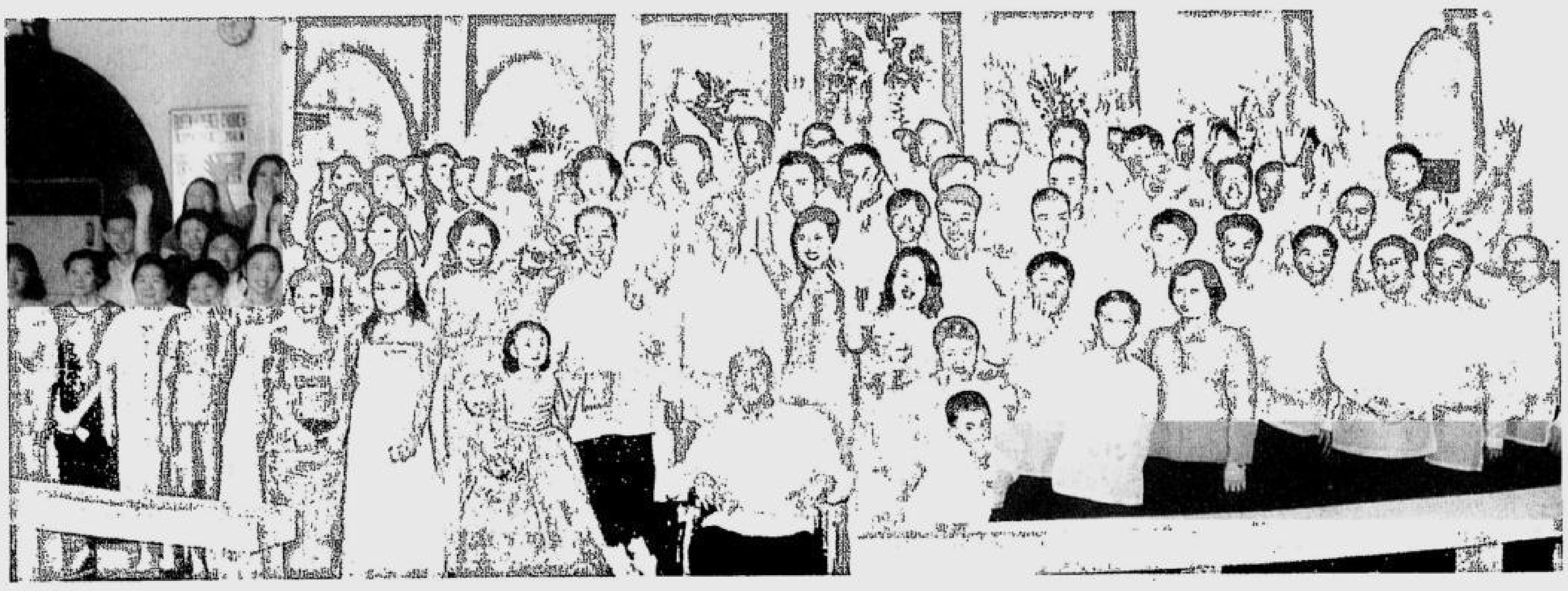

THE YAP clan

THE GODPARENTS

ado, the couple, David Lacson, Junbee Bantug and Michael Sarrosa

The stage was transformed into a virtual park, where majestic and towering palm trees together with plants like huge birds' nests and bromeliads were arranged abundantly. Lighting effects from the *capiz* lanterns and the par lights gave the whole venue a warm glow of fuchsia and yellow.

The bride's parents were all smiles to see their lovely daughter in the arms of the respected and loving Talisay mayor, a doctor by profession who finds satisfaction and happiness in rendering public service. Eric is a deeply religious, down-to-earth and intelligent person.

Eddie and Vicky Yap must have taught well the lessons in life to their daughter as Sheila is now an admirable businesswoman at a young age. Their flagship business, Travel Lounge, continues to be the region's top ticket distributor of Philippine Airlines for eight years in a row.

The Saratan-Yap wedding will surely go down in history as one of the biggest and most lavish weddings in Negros.

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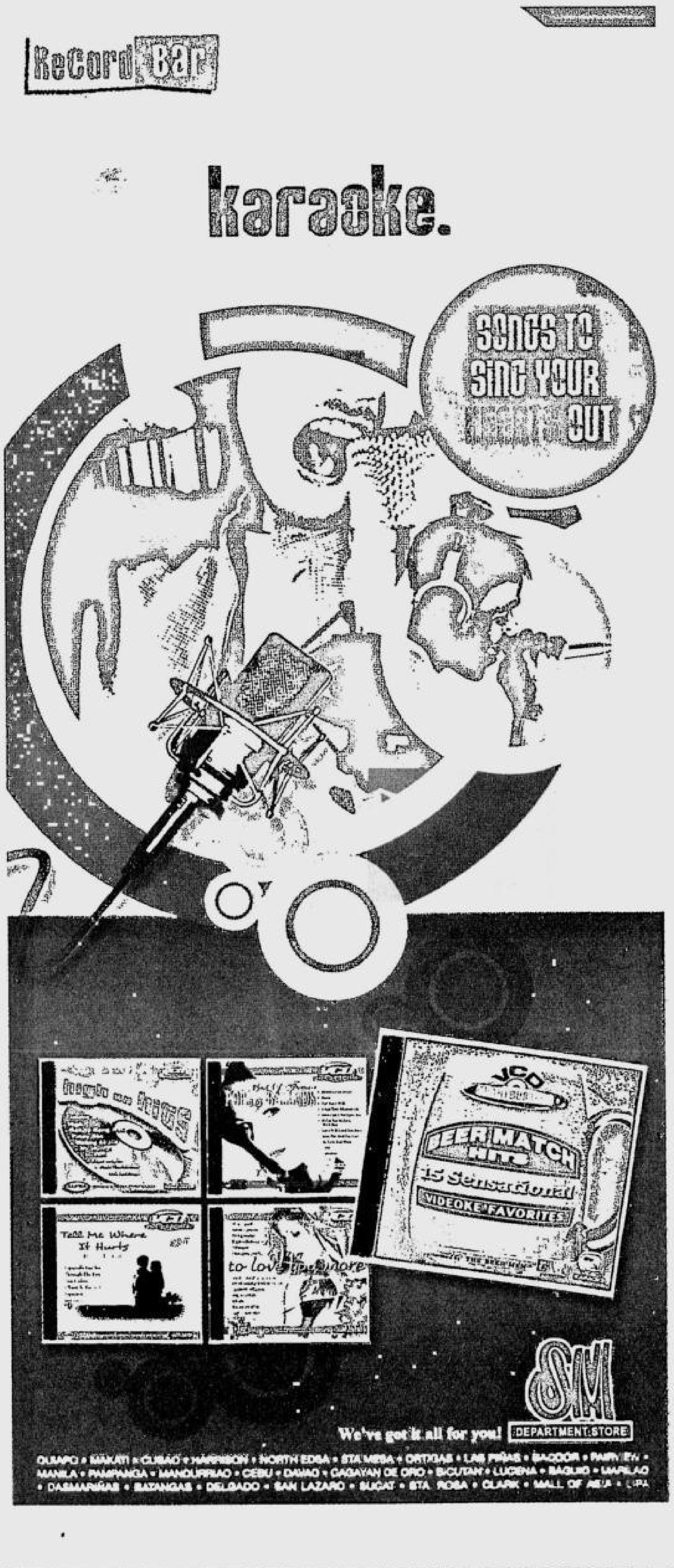
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PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

St. Joseph 'stars' in Nativity story

MY FRIEND DAVES AGUAS, A NATIVE OF Floridablanca, Pampanga, and a resident of Los Angeles, California, e-mailed to say St. Joseph was getting his due in "The Nativity Story" now showing in the United States.

We remember St. Joseph in the New Testament as not having said a word when he married the Blessed Virgin Mary and patiently looked for an inn where the Mother of God could give birth.

This time, Aguas quoted screenwriter Mike Rich, Joseph in the movie really provided a spine and a backbone to the story.

Rich also said, "Of all the characters... in the script and during the writing of it, no character evolved more on the page than Joseph."

AFTER the Cofradia Mass at Manila Cathedral: Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan (center) with the clergy; *hermana mayor* Carrie Bautista; Cofradia president Aurora Eizmendi and Cofradia founder Imelda Cojuangco. At the back is Msgr. Nestor Cerbo, rector of Manila Cathedral. LORNA LLANE

Producer Marty Bowen, a former altar boy, said the heroism of St. Joseph was a significant theme in the Christmas story. "It is a version of a simple man trying to do what he thinks is right and there is something heroic about that."

Director Catherine Hardwicke, a Protestant, said she hoped the film would let viewers experience the Christmas story in a new way, making it a transformative experience that would fully immerse them in another world through the music, clothes, textures, motion of the actors... "a world they've never been before."

Joseph is portrayed by a 26-year-old Guatemalan newcomer who describes his upbringing as "very Christian." Elizabeth is portrayed by Shohreh Aghdashloo, who was raised a Muslim. She meditates every morning "so she can come up with a pair of eyes that are always smiling with unconditional love."

The movie was previewed recently at the Glorietta Cinema 4 in Makati by the Assisi Development Foundation and Ambassador Henrietta de Villa, in collaboration with Wilson Yulo Que of Pioneer Films.

Mass draws thousands

The Manila Cathedral was packed as thousands attended the 2 p.m. Hermana Mass during the celebration by the Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion of the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Tuguegarao Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan led nine other priests in celebrating Mass. Coro Santuario sang. With the newly restored pipe organ playing for the first time, the liturgical celebration was glorious and solemn.

Archbishop Talamayan pointed out that Filipinos had always been devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary which, perhaps, explained why the Philippines was called *pueblo amante de Maria*.

Imelda Cojuangco installed the sash on *hermana mayor* Carrie Bautista. Commodore Fortunato Sagudo, representing the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), received the sash of the Grand Marshall. All branches of the AFP led the procession in front of the Manila Cathedral.

More than 80 images of the Blessed Virgin joined the procession. The pilgrim image of Our Lady of Piat from Cagayan Valley and the replica image of Our Lady of Caysasay from Taal, Batangas, brought up the rear.

The Cofradia del Nuestra Señora del Buen Suceso was behind the patroness of Parañaque.

Oplan Emmanuel

Flor Carmeli Charity Apostolate will bring clothes and food to 100 poor children in Lubang, Oriental Mindoro, Dec. 17. Rev. Ronaldo Manabat, founder of the charity project, is asking for donations in cash or kind.

Please deliver to Eucharistic Formation Center, 20 Sunnyside Drive, New Manila. Quezon City, or text 0919-5123185 or 0921-7909361, or deposit to Monte Carmelo de Caridad Savings #0166-10257-1 at Equitable PCIB, Brixton, Araneta branch.

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The instrument of God Vassula Ryden will be in the Philippines Dec. 16-19. Her schedule is: Dec. 16, 7 p.m., talk after Bishop Teodoro Bacani's 6 p.m. Mass at El Shaddai. Sucat, Parañaque; Dec. 17, 3 p.m., talk after the Mass at Casa Maria, Catigan, Toril. Davao City; and Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m., talk after Archbishop Ramon Arguelles' 6:30 p.m. Mass at St. James Parish, Ayala Alabang.

Vassula will have a private audience with Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales Dec. 19, 4 p.m., at the Arzobispado. Call 7130211 or text Father Richie at 0917-9704421.

Dedication

Sta. Cruz Church in Manila has the Blessed Sacrament exposed the whole day everyday. The Blessed Sacrament fathers hope to have the church elevated to a shrine soon. At 6:15 p.m., Dec. 17, the church will be dedicated.

Rev. Hermogenes Garcia, SSS, was ordained yesterday by Cabanatuan Bishop Sofronio Bancud, SSS.

Devotees help

Ina Poon Bato devotees led by Rosellyn Magsaysay will leave Dec. 11, 4 a.m., for Legazpi City to bring food and clothes to Typhoon Reming victims. Rosellyn said it was like 1991 during the Mt. Pinatubo eruption when the Virgin was guiding her.

A poor young woman went to Rosellyn's house asking for food for her hungry children. When Rosellyn asked where her house was, she said it was near the market but was gone.

Rosellyn gave her food and tricycle fare.

Much later, when Rosellyn looked for the house, she found a church. The image in the altar looked like Ina Poon Bato.

Those who wish to donate or join the group can call 4144976 or text 0920-9208874. The convoy will meet at Magallanes Shell station. But call first.

Anniversary

Fr. Lorenzo Marzo celebrated his first anniversary as a priest with a Holy Mass at the formation house of the Eucharistic Healers of Mary, 43 Morning Star Drive, Sanville Subd., Culiat, QC.

Meanwhile, "Purely Personal Book of Miracles" is available again at National Bookstore in Harrison Plaza.

ZOBEL FOUNDATION INC
CANDLE MAKING SEMINAR

ONCE idle and unemployed women of Calatagan, Batangas, are now earning income crafting handmade candles. Photo shows Dee H. Zobel (center), chair of the Enrique Zobel Foundation Inc., which sponsored a candle-making seminar for Calatagan women. With her are seminar instructors (back row, from left) Arman Reonal, Bong Bautista, Art Tabunda, EZF executive director José Rodriguez, and some of the participants.

Candle makers of Batangas

TWENTY-FIVE UNEMPLOYED WOMEN OF Calatagan, Batangas, are now earning P900-P1,500 each from handmade candles.

The women, members of the Calatagan Livelihood Multi-Purpose Cooperative, learned the craft through a livelihood seminar organized by the Enrique Zobel Foundation Inc. (EZF).

The 25 women completed the six-day hands-on training on basic candle-making, mould-making, and advanced candle-making techniques conducted by Art Tabunda, Bong Bautista and Arman Reonal.

They then attended a pre-membership education seminar then registered themselves as a cooperative with the Cooperative Development Authority. Underway is the registration of their business name, Hacienda Craft Philippines, with the Department of Trade and Industry.

EZF extended a loan as initial capital of the group.

The group now produces candles for corporate giveaways. It has been sub-contracted by Blue Magic Candles, a souvenir and gift shop.

Through livelihood projects, EZF tries to fulfill its mission to help enrich the lives of people in Calatagan, hometown of the late businessman-philanthropist Enrique Zobel.

Established in 1990, the foundation also offers teacher training seminars, provides public school students access to audio-video learning packages, and conducts health and nutrition teach-ins.

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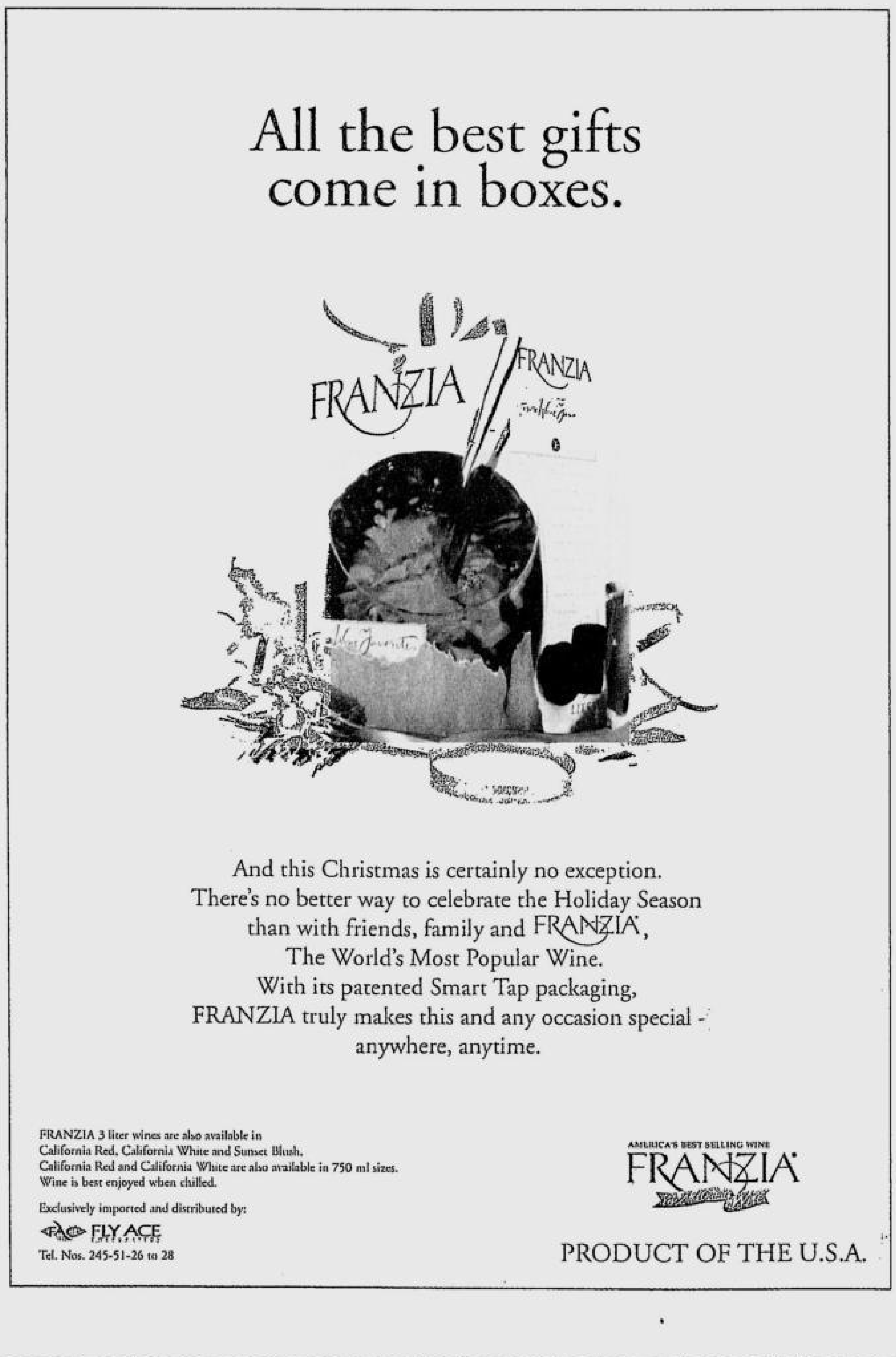
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FAÇADE of the first WMSU building, which is now the College of Education

Under the leadership of Dr. Eldigario D. Gonzales, the Western Mindanao State University is fully engaged in the lives and concerns of the people it serves

Zamboanga university is no ivory tower

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

COLLEGES AND universities are sometimes accused of being ivory towers—dedicated to the pursuit of education whether or not that relates to the reality of living, even just surviving.

But the century-old Western Mindanao State University (WMSU) is in the thick of life in Zamboanga City—helping clean up its environment and preserve its natural resources, bringing marginalized groups into the mainstream, advancing the debate on issues of concern to the residents.

Dr. Eldigario D. Gonzales, who has been president of the university for nine years and who is also currently president of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC), would not have it any other way.

During the recent formal launch of the university's centennial celebration, Gonzales reminded the WMSU community: "We have to leave the ivory tower and go to the community that needs support like persons who are differently abled and indigenous populations. WMSU must go beyond the classrooms."

Gonzales exhorted the academic community to continue using their talent and passion for the uplift of marginalized sectors in Zamboanga. He said WMSU should be a university for people and the community.

Gonzales favors greater engagement by the university in the community, creating an institution with "no boundaries." The university president said: "[WMSU] has gone beyond the four walls of the classroom and the campus" and was involved in the social engineering of the community.

He gave the assurance that the university would "continue to think of programs that will help improve the community, particularly the lives of marginalized sectors."

The university president pointed out, with justifiable pride, that almost every college or unit of the educational institution had an extension program that "promoted volunteerism and partnership with the community."

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2006 Araw Values Advertising Awards on Dec. 11

The prestigious industry Araw Values Advertising (AVA) Awards ceremony for this year will be held on Dec. 11, at 6 p.m. at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium at RCBC Plaza, Makati City under the auspices of the Advertising Foundation of the Philippines (Ad Foundation) in collaboration with the Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard). The 5th Araw Values Advertising Awards will honor twelve organizations as the moving spirit behind values oriented advertising in post-Martial Law and pre-AVA years and the winners of the 2006 Competition for Branded Communications with values messages and Advocacy/Institutional Advertising.

The biennial industry awards rites will be led by 2006 AVA overall organizing committee lead chair, Raul S. Alvarez, and co-chair, Antonio R. Samson, together with the Ad Foundation chair of the board, Johnip G. Cua, and the AdBoard chair, Ma. Teresa Villanueva. ABS-CBN, with its Creative-Production Group headed by Chit Guerrero, will take charge of staging the Dec. 11 awarding ceremonies and its delayed telecast special in January 2007.

"Working on the 2006 Araw Values Advertising Awards since March 2006 is a team of select industry executives, harnessed together as volunteers for organizing and project management skills and their values orientation thrusts", cited 2006 AVA lead chair Raul Alvarez. Serving as co-chair is Antonio R. Samson, former Ad Foundation chair of the board and the 2002 AVA honoree as one of the individuals responsible for initiating values oriented advertising.. Other members of the 2006 Araw Values Advertising (AVA) Awards organizing committee are: renowned young creative director, Merlee Jayme, as chair of creative committee; multi-awarded agency head Socky Pitargue, as chair of rules committee; agency executive Jose Rafael Hernandez, as chair of search committee; media agency country manager Lizelle Maralag, as chair of ways and means; noted production specialists Mart Miranda and Amar Gambol, as co-chairs of technical production; media executive and Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas chair of the board, Ruperto Nicdao Jr., as chair of PR and information committee; AdBoard and Ad Foundation treasurer and voice talent, Edgar Navalta, as the finance committee chair; Ad Foundation assistant board secretary and executive director Linda C. Gamboa, as overall project manager; and AdBoard staff assistant Raymond Nacino, as coordinator. Also serving as special consultants of 2006 AVA organizing committee are past 2002 and 2004 AVA overall chairs, Arnedo C. Lucas and Tomas C. Banguis, Jr., respectively.

Socky Pitargue, 2006 AVA rules committee chair, said that the harvest for this year's biennial competition is very promising and undoubtedly manifests the industry's social responsibility. "The multi-tiered judging of all the entries took a lot of overtime work for the various panels of judges, specially in the preliminary and finalists judging stages"; Pitargue added. A special jury, composed of eminent personalities from the industry, cultural, artistic, and diplomatic communities constituted the panel for the Platinum Awards, the highest honor for an entry in Branded Communications and/or Advocacy/Institutional Advertising. Independent auditing firm, Punongbayan & Araullo, is the official auditing firm of 2006 AVA Competition in all three levels of judging.

Exclusive beneficiary of the 2006 AVA Awards Night and its telecast special over ABS-CBN, as the official TV network carrier for 2006, is Advertising Foundation of the Philippines, the social development body of the industry. Johnip Cua, its incumbent chair, said that all net proceeds of 2006 AVA will be used to sustain the Foundation operations and its social marketing endeavors along values education, nation building and long-term industry welfare as well.

Winners of the bronze, silver, gold, and platinum awards will be revealed and honored with the Araw trophies on Dec. 11. Tickets for the Awards Night are available at the AdBoard office for sale to industry members at P500 each; for students, at P50 - P100 each.

2006 ARAW VALUES AWARDS FINALISTS

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Better Place	Pondo ng Pinoy	Pondo ng Pinoy	Ace Saatchi & Saatchi
Magician	Pondo ng Pinoy	Pondo ng Pinoy	Ace Saatchi & Saatchi
Vanishing	UNDP	UNDP	Ace Saatchi & Saatchi
Hands	Pondo ng Pinoy	Pondo ng Pinoy	Aspac Advertising
Omnibus	Childhope Asia Philippines	Childhope	BBDO Guerrero Ortega
Bed	Childhope Asia Philippines	Childhope	BBDO Guerrero Ortega
Dining	Childhope Asia Philippines	Childhope	BBDO Guerrero Ortega
Footloose	Metro Magazine	Metro Magazine	Campaigns & Grey
Wealth	Haribon Foundation	Biodiversity	Campaigns & Grey
Child Abuse	Children's Lab	Children's Lab Advocacy	DDB Philippines
DVD	Music One Corporation	Music Store	DM9 JaymeSyfu
4PINAS	GMA News & Public Affairs	GMA Network	GMA Creative Services Division
Chess	GMA Network	GMA Network	GMA Creative Services Division
Christ	GMA Network	GMA Network	GMA Creative Services Division
Everest "Wagi"	GMA Network	GMA Network	GMA Creative Services Division
No Agenda	GMA News & Public Affairs	GMA Network	GMA Creative Services Division
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Go	Bureau of Internal Revenue	ITR	Image Dimensions
Bars	Caritas Manila	Caritas	Leo Burnett
Dylan	Golden Arches Development Corp.	McDonald's	Leo Burnett
In My Day	Caritas Manila	Pondo ng Pinoy	Leo Burnett
Walter	Caritas Manila	Caritas	Leo Burnett
Draw/50	Children's Hour	Children's Hour	McCann-Erickson
Alay	"The Boots Company Phils., Inc."	Boots Healthcare	McCann-Erickson
Manila/Standee	Children's Hour	Children's Hour	McCann-Erickson
Aviation	Ad Foundation	Filipino Invest	TBWA/SMP
Beautiful Eyes	"Eyebank Foundation, Inc."	Eyebank Foundation	TBWA/SMP
Bottle	Philippine Star	Philippine Star	TBWA/SMP
Countdown	National Commission on Women	Kababaihan	TBWA/SMP
Fishbone	U.P. Population Institute	U.P. Population Institute	TBWA/SMP
French	Ad Foundation	Filipino Invest	TBWA/SMP
I See God	Hands on Manila	Hands on Manila	TBWA/SMP
Istorya	National Commission on Women	Kababaihan	TBWA/SMP
Parking	Philippine Star	Philippine Star	TBWA/SMP
Smoking	Philippine Star	Philippine Star	TBWA/SMP
Speaker	ABC 5	ABC 5	TBWA/SMP
Heaven & Earth	Caltex Phils.	Caltex	Y&R Philippines
Mentor	Caltex Phils.	Caltex	Y&R Philippines

Single Radio

Analogy (Skulls)	Pfizer Global Pharmaceutical	Pfizer Corporate	AB Communications
Ursula (Skulls)	Pfizer Global Pharmaceutical	Pfizer Corporate	AB Communications
Colors	Reef Check Philippines	Coral Reef Conservation	Campaigns & Grey
Pinaka	Haribon Foundation	Biodiversity	Campaigns & Grey
Whale	Haribon Foundation	Haribon Foundation	Campaigns & Grey
Ka Ching	DZMM	Linggo ng Wika Awareness	JWT Manila
Age	Dept. of Social Welfare and Dev't.	DSWD Problem Solving	McCann-Erickson
Anak Ng	ReachOut Foundation	Family Planning	McCann-Erickson
Magkano	Dept. of Social Welfare and Dev't.	DSWD Problem Solving	McCann-Erickson
Pangarap	ReachOut Foundation	Family Planning	McCann-Erickson
Roll Call	ReachOut Foundation	Family Planning	McCann-Erickson
Sahod	Dept. of Social Welfare and Dev't.	DSWD Problem Solving	McCann-Erickson
Boothbeeth	TBWA/SMP	Linggo ng Wika	TBWA/SMP
Journalist	ABC 5	ABC 5	TBWA/SMP
Mike	TBWA/SMP	Buwan ng Wika	TBWA/SMP
"My Toes, My Knees"	Phil. Association for Nutrition	Phil. Association for Nutrition	TBWA/SMP
Saging	Mindanao Commission on Women	Mindanao Commission on Women	TBWA/SMP
Seen I	"Eyebank Foundation, Inc."	Eyebank Foundation	TBWA/SMP
Superwoman	National Commission on Women	Kababaihan	TBWA/SMP
Bahay Ku Po	Hope Worldwide	Hope Worldwide	Y&R Philippines

Single Print

Bra	HSBC	HSBC Red Mastercard Breast Cancer Awareness	141 Worldwide
Pito	Gabriela	Gabriela	Ace Saatchi & Saatchi
Smokers	Phil. Cancer Society	Phil. Cancer Society	Ace Saatchi & Saatchi
Doll	UNICEF	Pangako sa Pangarap	BCD Pinpoint
Polaroid	UNICEF	Pangako sa Pangarap	BCD Pinpoint
Where in the World	WWF Philippines	WWF Membership	BCD Pinpoint
Semana Santa	Universal Robina Corporation	Nissin Cup Noodles	Campaigns & Grey
Hot Pinay	DDB Cares/Phil. Star Advocacy	DDB Cares/Phil. Star Advocacy	DDB Philippines
Pasko	DDB Cares/Phil. Star Advocacy	DDB Cares/Phil. Star Advocacy	DDB Philippines
City of Blind and Deaf	Teodora/Manila Bulletin/Rapp Collins Advocacy	Teodora/Manila Bulletin/Rapp Collins Advocacy	DDB Philippines
Russian Doll	Pro-Life Philippines	Non-Government Org.	DM9 JaymeSyfu
Linggo ng Wika	Globe Telecom	Globe Gentext	Harrison Communications
Scooby	Phil. Animal Welfare Society	PAWS	JWT Manila
Tongue	Phil. Animal Welfare Society	PAWS	JWT Manila
Trees	Greenpeace	Greenpeace	JWT Manila
Bagyo	The Coca-Cola Export Corporation	Coca-Cola Foundation	McCann-Erickson
Bisikleta	Dept. of Social Welfare and Dev't.	Anti-Child Labor	McCann-Erickson
Ilog	Dept. of Social Welfare and Dev't.	Anti-Child Labor	McCann-Erickson
Palo	The Coca-Cola Export Corporation	Coca-Cola Foundation	McCann-Erickson
Pier	Dept. of Social Welfare and Dev't.	Anti-Child Labor	McCann-Erickson
Collision	Nissan Motors Phils.	Nissan	TBWA/SMP
Paddle	Upsilon	Upsilon	TBWA/SMP
Wall	Nissan Motors Phils.	Nissan	TBWA/SMP
Piglets	Concordia Children's Services	Concordia Children's Services	Y&R Philippines

Single Ambient

Baras	Coca-Cola Company	Coca-Cola Company	141 Worldwide
Padyak	Coca-Cola Company	Coca-Cola Company	141 Worldwide
Shave	Project Brave Kids	Project Brave Kids	141 Worldwide
Brick Books	Childhope/Goodwill Bookstore	Childhope Asia Phils.	DDB Philippines
Newstand	Childhope/Goodwill Bookstore	Childhope Asia Phils.	DDB Philippines
Russian Doll	Pro-Life Philippines	Non-Government Org.	DM9 JaymeSyfu
Cat Dreams 1	Phil. Animal Welfare Society	PAWS	JWT Manila
Cat Dreams 2	Phil. Animal Welfare Society	PAWS	JWT Manila
Cat Dreams 5	Phil. Animal Welfare Society	PAWS	JWT Manila
Trees	Greenpeace	Greenpeace	JWT Manila
Eyelashes	"Eyebank Foundation, Inc."	Eyebank Foundation	TBWA/SMP
Fishbone	U.P. Population Institute	U.P. Population Institute	TBWA/SMP
Plates	KLIMA	Klima	TBWA/SMP

Single Direct

Christmas Box (DM)	141 Worldwide	Brave Kids	141 Worldwide
Brushstrokes (DM)	Petron Corporation	Art Petron	Studio 5 Designs
Harvest (Calendar)	Petron Corporation	Art Petron	Studio 5 Designs
Relationships (Calendar)	Petron Corporation	Art Petron	Studio 5 Designs
Relationships (Collateral)	Petron Corporation	Art Petron	Studio 5 Designs

SMC-TV

Buhay Kapuso (Doctor/Faith/Janitor)	GMA Network	GMA Network	GMA Creative Services Division
Mdrill Mrulay/Mlambt	GMA Network	GMA Network	GMA Creative Services Division

SMC-Radio

Pangarap/Roll Call/Anak Ng	ReachOut Foundation	Family Planning	McCann-Erickson

SMC-Print

If Only	UNICEF	"United for Children, Unite Against Aids"	BCD Pinpoint
Tears	"Pfizer, Inc"	Visine Refresh	Blue Bottle
Piggy Series	Phil. Daily Inquirer	PDI Newspaper Drive	Harrison Communications
Puzzle Series	Phil Daily Inquirer	PDI Newspaper Drive	Harrison Communications

SMC-Ambient

Cat Dreams	Phil. Animal Welfare Society	PAWS	JWT Manila
Doormat (Inday/Atsay/Halos 5000)	Teodora	Teodora Advocacy Against Women Violence	DDB Philippines
Working Moms	Working Mom Magazine	Working Mom Magazine	Campaigns & Grey

SMC-Multimedia

Flag Campaign	ABS-CBN	ABS-CBN	ABS-CBN CCM

BRANDED

Single Ambient

Title	Advertiser	Product	Agency
Tutulungan Kita	Radyo Veritas 846	Radyo Veritas 846	DDB Philippines
Black & White	Music One Corporation	Music Store	DM9 JaymeSyfu
Bus Stop	Schering Plough Corp	Coppertone Sunblock Lotion	DM9 JaymeSyfu
Carlo	Schering Plough Corp.	Coppertone Sunblock Lotion	DM9 JaymeSyfu
Pool	Schering Plough Corp	Coppertone Sunblock Lotion	DM9 JaymeSyfu
Red	Music One Corporation	Music Store	DM9 JaymeSyfu
White	Music One Corporation	Music Store	DM9 JaymeSyfu
Boss	San Carlos Seminary	Project Priest	McCann-Erickson
Forbidden	San Carlos Seminary	Project Priest	McCann-Erickson
Sermon	San Carlos Seminary	Project Priest	McCann-Erickson
Obey	"Golden ABC, Inc"	Penshoppe	TBWA/SMP

SMC-Direct

Title	Advertiser	Product	Agency
BPI Expat Pinoy	Bank of the Philippine Islands	BPI Expat Pinoy Program	n/a

SMC-TV

Title	Advertiser	Product	Agency
North Luzon Expressway	Advocacy Campaign	Manila North Tollways Corp.	J. Romero & Associates
Johnson's Baby Oil	Touch	Johnson & Johnson Phils.	"Lowe, Inc."
Jollibee	Cellphone/Bully/Graffiti	Jollibee Foods Corp	McCann-Erickson

SMC-Radio

Title	Advertiser	Product	Agency
North Luzon Expressway	Safety Campaign	Manila North Tollways Corp.	J. Romero & Associates
Project Priest	The Sign/2nd Sign/3rd Sign	San Carlos Seminary	McCann-Erickson

SMC-Print

Title	Advertiser	Product	Agency
Tiendesitas	Tiendesitas 2005 Campaign	Ortigas & Co. Ltd. Partnership	J. Romero & Associates
PDI Recycle Ads	Earth/Tree/Nest	Phil. Daily Inquirer	McCann-Erickson

SMC-Ambient

"HSBC Insurance Brokerage, Inc."	Fragile	"HSBC Insurance Brokerage, Inc."	141 Worldwide
Music Store	POD (Red/White/Black & White)	Music One Corporation	DM9 JaymeSyfu
Coppertone Sunblock Lotion	Shadow (Bus/Carlo/Pool)	Schering Plough Corp.	DM9 JaymeSyfu
North Luzon Expressway	Rediscover Campaign	Manila North Tollways Corp.	J Romero & Associates
Penshoppe	Battlecry	"Golden ABC, Inc."	TBWA

Multimedia

Everest	ABS-CBN	ABS-CBN	ABS-CBN CCM
Tapat sa Pag-Ibig Campaign	Pag-Ibig Fund	Pag-Ibig Fund	"Admix, Inc."
Heroes Campaign	Phil. National Bank	PNB Global Filipino Money Card	J. Romero & Associates
Walang Makakalusot	"Global Brands, Inc."	Vulca Seal	Leo Burnett

ARAW Values Awards Night

December 11, 2006
6:00PM
Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium
Podium 4, Yuchengco Tower II, RCBC Plaza
Ayala cor, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

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Zamboanga university is no ivory tower

From page 11

WMSU, he said, was helping advance the idea of sustainable development (development that ensured resources were protected and preserved for future generations) and the alleviation of poverty. He said the school had accepted rebel returnees and even had scholarships for both members of indigenous communities and children of former anti-government fighters.

Mangrove protectors

And so, during the launch, Gonzales signed on behalf of WMSU a memorandum of understanding with the regional office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, represented by director Edgardo Bisquera, making the university a partner in the government agency's Adopt a Wetland Program.

Among other things, the partnership will involve the restoration, rehabilitation and protection of mangroves and coastal communities. The university's involvement was an initiative of the Institute of Physical Education, Sports and Cultural Affairs. With many of its fitness activities done outdoors, the institute felt it should contribute to the preservation of the environment that its students and faculty enjoyed so much.

The university also laid the groundwork for a pioneering program to bring education to the nomadic, boat-dwelling Badjaos. Pilot-tested in September was what WMSU experts described as "formal elementary education in a very informal setting." Collaborating with the National Commission on Indigenous Populations and the Department of Education, instruction was adapted to the culture and tradition of the Badjaos who moved from place to place.

Instead of a firmly grounded building with four walls, the Badjaos would have a mobile, rather sailing, school. They would be taught on a specially constructed catamaran-type (two-hulled) boat with two engines to move it around the coastal areas. Some 60 Badjao school-age children were expected as initial participants, with some of them not having been inside a classroom for even a day.

In what appears to be a variation of the saying "If Mohammed can't come to the mountain, the mountain will come to Mohammed," WMSU is bringing the school to the students who find it difficult, because of their way of life, to come to school.

Also, as part of WMSU's desire to be engaged in issues of interest to the community, it hosted a forum on the proposal to make Zamboanga City a province. Gonzales openly admits he favors the idea of creating Zamboanga Hermosa, proposed name for the new province, while many members of the WMSU academic community are not so taken with the notion.

But he felt that, as a center of scholarship and learning, WMSU should be fully engaged in the issue and other socio-political concerns and should actively participate in debates, hence, the forum.

Distinguished graduates

While WMSU's present has given it bragging rights, it has just as much to be proud of about its past. The quality of its alumni speaks volumes about the kind of instruction the university dispenses.

Maverick Mayor Cesar C. Climaco, rumored to have been assassinated by members of the military for his defiance of martial rule; Miguel Velarde, who composed Imelda R. Marcos' signature song "Dahil sa Iyo," and "Ikaw"; Evangelina Macaraeg, who became First Lady of the Philippines and mother of President Macapagal-Arroyo; businessman-industrialist Teodoro Araneta; and Rafael C. Climaco, former justice of the court of appeals, are just a few of graduates who brought distinction to the university.

The WMSU faculty was also graced by such luminaries as Geronima Pecson, former senator; and well-known short-story writer Amador T. Daguio.

All this certainly makes for a very productive and distinguished 100 years. But WMSU, which traces its roots back to 1904 when it opened as a high school, almost missed the important milestone with documents misplaced or gone missing over the years. So it is now making up for lost time with a year-long celebration that will include a general alumni homecoming Dec. 14-16.

Anyway, as Filipinos say, "*Huli man daw at magaling, naihahabol din.*"

CAPIZ windows suggest the College of Education is much older than other buildings in the WMSU campus. (above)
The Rabna de Talabaan, a group of percussionists with members ranging in age from 14-67, performs during the centennial celebration launch. (left)

IMAM Makin Flores, 67, leads the Rabna de Talabaan.

DR. ELDIGARIO Gonzales says WMSU's faculty and students should leave the ivory tower and become fully engaged in the community.

DENR Regional Director Edgardo Bisquera, Dr. Gonzales and Mampang Barangay Chair Pedro Estrada sign the memorandum of agreement for the Adopt-a-Wetland program.

STARTING as a high school then a teacher training institution, WMSU now has 15 colleges and institutions.

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15 Years
The legend lives on

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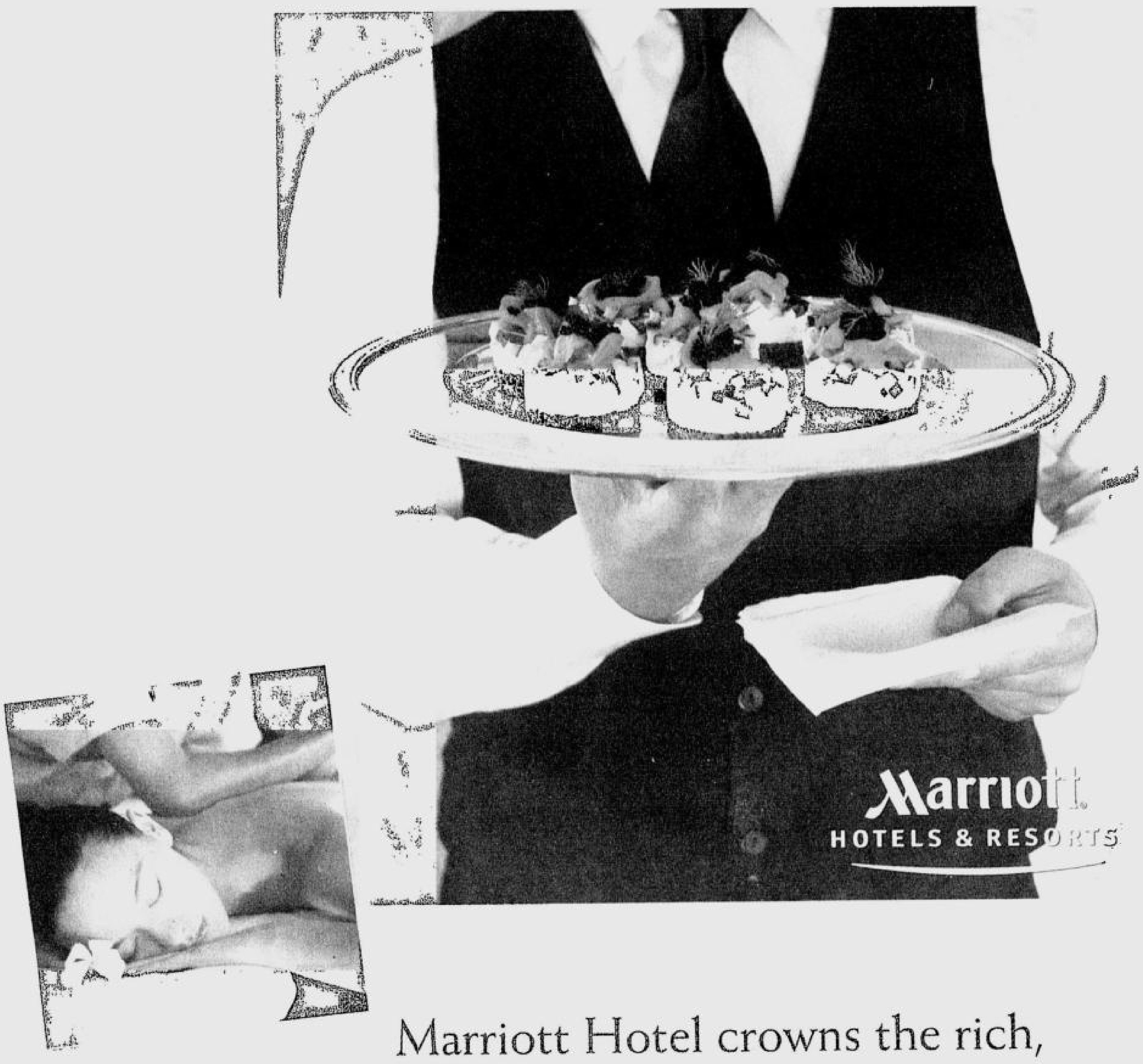
WITH A PASSION.



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MSG RCVD: the curse of the unlimited text plan

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

AS MUCH AS WE HATE TO ADMIT IT, WE can no longer imagine a time and place in human history when the cellular phone did not exist. To live and breathe in the 21st century without instant and effective access to the rest of mankind (or those who we still choose to consider as fellow humans) have become unfathomable.

Now that we have cell phones that can provide weather and traffic updates—not to mention the latest news involving volcanic eruptions, adventures in impeachment or who Piolo Pascual is dating—that tiny gadget tucked in our persons has practically become a biological appendage.

It is not enough that you can link up with anyone on the planet with the right buttons on the keyboard. You can also take all-too-cute photos and videos, play mind-stretching games, send e-mails and even swap footages of the latest sex scandals involving your favorite celebrities or wannabes.

And in a country like ours boasting of a terminal preoccupation for nostalgia, cheap romance, gossip and intrigue, we have turned this technological advancement into our own national treasure of habit. After all, it is only in the Philippines that we have transformed the word Bluetooth into a verb ("*I-Bluetooth mo nga ako*").

But then again, we can only take the good with the inevitable bad. Cell phones also brought about the marvel of SMS or short message services.

Text messaging has become second nature to any hand-phone subscriber not only because it is cheaper to use. It has also become a means by which any individual—demented, plain bored or suffering from post-modernist angst—can assure everyone on his sphere of existence that he is still a functioning child of the universe.

It is also bad enough that for the sake of speed writing text messages, we are now threatening the active use of vowels in written language as well desecrating existing rules of grammar. Worse, a great number of people have become purely addicted to text messaging that they fiddle with their keyboards as if it were a part of their respiratory system.

Such creatures are not content with the simple art of polite and necessary communication. Instead, they hurl messages ranging from the mundane "Hi, how are you *na*?" to varied expressions of spiritual consciousness ranging from "God bless" or quotations from the Bible that make the recipients feel like they are the greatest sinners this side of Gomorrah.

Even more dismaying are the determinedly stupid jokes or the threatening announcements that if the recipient does not resend the message to five thousand other numbskulls, a curse far more horrid than the one shown in "Sukob" would fall on all the members of his family and friends.

Moreover, text addicts have developed a neurotic compulsion to send messages to everyone listed in their address books, devoid of any rhyme or reason and unconscious of time and/or place, just for the sake of maximizing their unlimited SMS privileges.

You realize that you have a major problem in your hands when approximately 40 percent of texts you receive per day come from people you know who are trying to be cute. You know you are on your way to a nervous breakdown when at 2 a.m. your phone shatters your sleep. You scramble out of bed and end up reading a "knock-knock" joke or an excerpt from the Letters of Paul to the Ephesians.

Okay, it can be somewhat touching to be reminded that, in this crazed and unfeeling world, someone still remembers you. Yet to receive a bulk of forwarded messages so obviously pre-fabricated and possessing all the sincerity and seriousness of the literature found in skin whiteners is simply mind-boggling.

One begins to wonder who concocts all these syrupy inane messages or who invents those completely inutile jokes possessing a spaced-out nincompoop's sense of humor. One is even more stunned by the fact that there are people who actually think these vapid expressions of affirmation and attempts at humor are actually any good and deserve to be appreciated by people who have accidentally intersected their lives.

You just get the feeling that someone out there is making such big money out of the gullibility of others—and that there are so many suckers all too willing to be victims of inconspicuous consumption just for the sake of being loved.

Do we take it against these text junkies who forward us these messages that they can be so insensitive to realize that they are actually spending good money to publicize their inanity to the civilized world? Or is it our moral responsibility to send a text reply screaming: "Stop sending me these stupid forwarded messages because it is really about time you go get a life!"?

This, of course, is a perfect way to lose friends. But then, if this brutal act can assure the recovery of one's sanity and the proper way to use the cellular phone, a little infamy can go a long, long way.

> To receive forwarded messages so obviously pre-fabricated and possessing all the sincerity and seriousness of the literature found in skin whiteners is simply mind-boggling

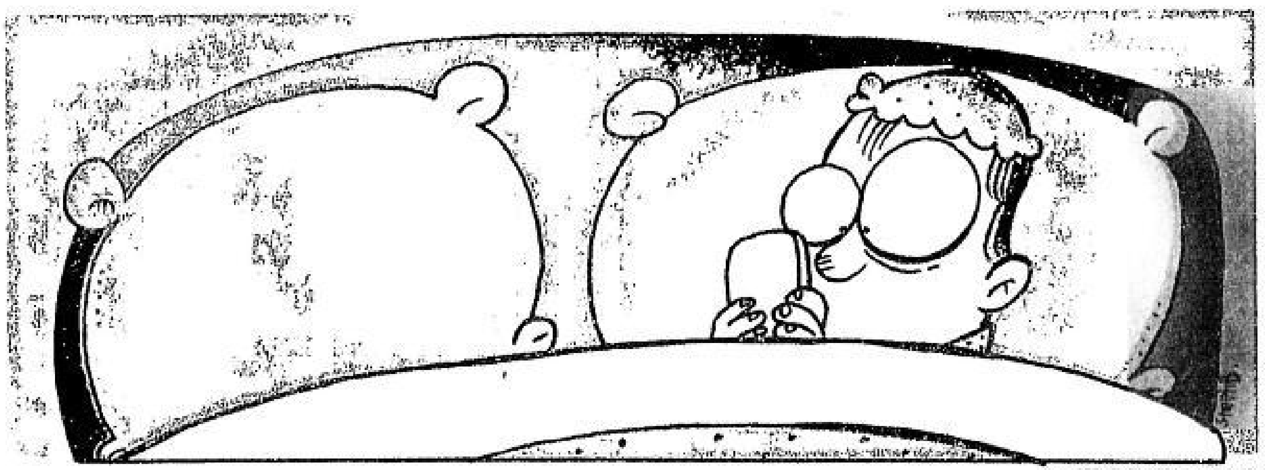
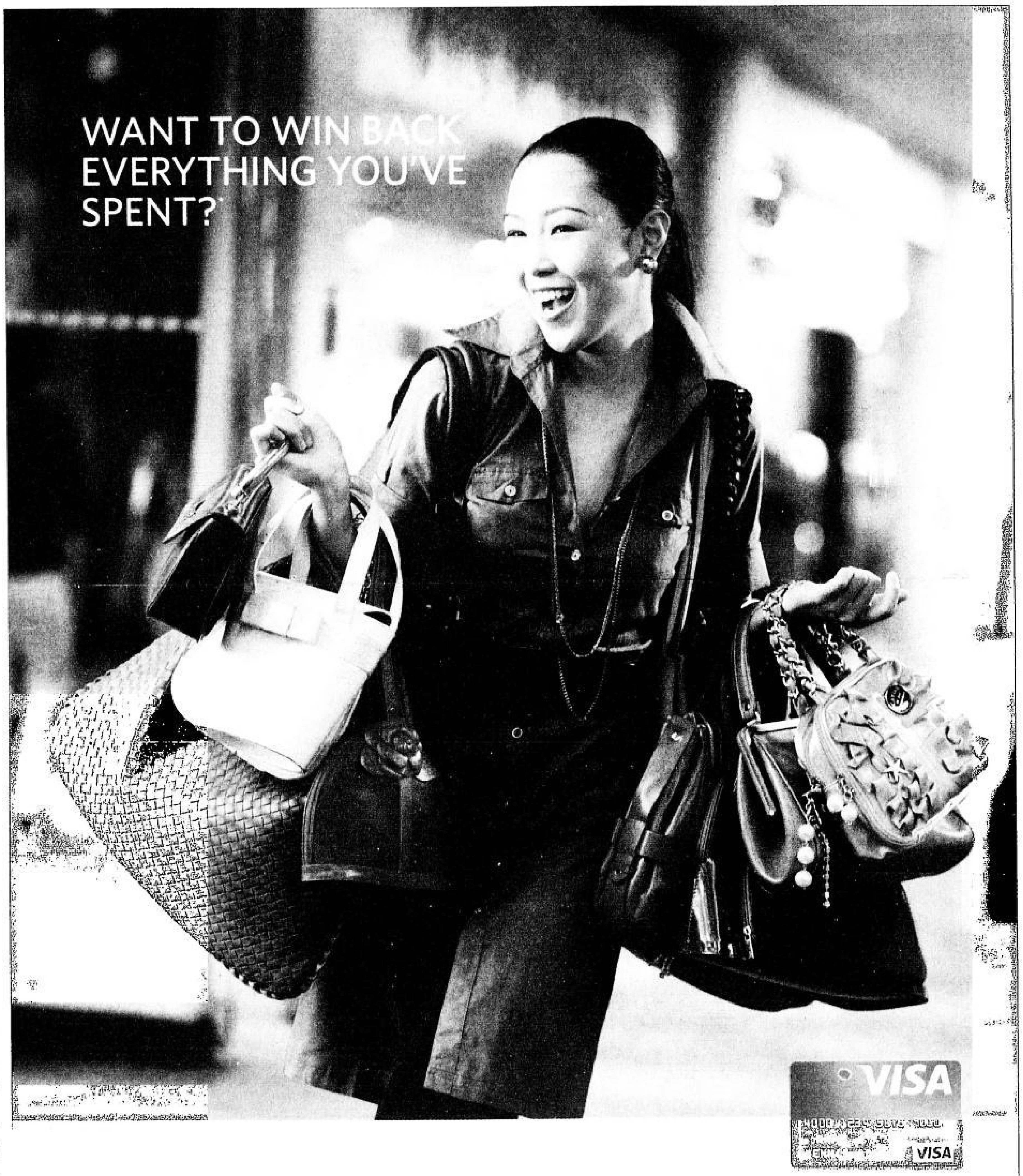


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO



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Ex. VISA Mennie So, 400000, 1234, 1000.25 ,111206, 1808
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Promo period: November 12, 2006 - January 30, 2007

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*Visa purchases from January 1, 2006 up to a day before the draw date or December 31, 2006, whichever comes first, or up to a maximum of P500,000 net of withholding tax.

BOOK launch guests Nikki Teodoro, Cynthia Villar, Gov. Bella Angara Castillo and Sen. Manny Villar

NEXT-GENERATION beauties Alyanna Martinez, Dominique Cojuangco, Alissa Martinez and gorgeous Gretchen Barretto

BIRTHDAY duo Pops Fernandez and Anton San Diego with IS friends Marianne Po, Laurie Jimenez Westfall and Mela Gozon

Christmas and birthdays

CHAMPAGNE and Cupcake Party of Leica Carpo at Cupcakes by Sonja at Serendra

MAKATI Shangri-La grand family: VP-GM Greg Dogan, PR Joy Wassmer and GM Jarlath Lynch

STAR columnist Joanne Ramirez, Sea Princess, Sen, Ed Angara and Gina Lopez

From page J4

content and ready, as the saying goes, for life to begin.

Crown ball

There are gatherings and there are events, but when one truly wants to "par-tee" there is only the capital "T" of the Tiara Ball!

Grand dame **Mellie Ablaza** once again brings theme party cum lavish décor and unbelievable setting to a new level. Never one to let her family and friends down, Mellie's much-awaited Birthday and Christmas Party this year was a Tiara Ball, beautifully announced with invites containing bejeweled tiaras. We guests truly had no excuse not to wear one! Talented designer **Oliver Tolentino** made me a flowing gown for the night, which was so bedecked that I actually didn't need a tiara!

The Polo Club's ballroom was converted into a chateau with multilayered areas and fantastic murals. Feathers, mirrored balls and crystal adorned each table and a magnificent centerpiece hung over the dance floor. The setup was creatively done by her son **Jun-Jun**. He said he already has a warehouse full of props for any imaginable theme.

Just a week ago, Mellie's year-old grandson had a swinging '80s-theme birthday party. Again Jun-Jun was up to the task, decorating the affair with disco balls, giant Rubik's cubes and punk wigs.

One of the Tiara Ball highlights was an awesome fireworks display from the Polo Field. The evening was clear as the lights magnificently illuminated then cascaded down. I almost shouted "Happy New Year!"

Gift list

Just a few days left before Christmas and my gift list is still languishing from inattention.

I should have shopped more at the Festival of Trees last month. The annual charity ball of the Makati Garden Club is for the benefit of the numerous projects of the Philippines Business for Social Progress. Chaired by ever-so-generous **Manny Pangilinan**, the PBSP not only donates funds but also propels people to do livelihood to sustain themselves.

The silent auction had several art pieces, holiday packages, Christmas decorations and fully adorned Christmas trees. This year's affair had director **Freddie Santos** in charge of the production, which made for a jam-packed evening of fun.

Angara bio

Since I am so behind on gift preparations, I might just give everyone a copy Sen. **Ed Angara**'s book, "Seer of Sea & Sierra." Based on the politically well-attended book launch, it must be an inspiring book. It was the last book written by National Artist **Nick Joaquin**, which makes me all the more interested to read about Ed, whom I've only known previously through his daughter Ana.

Brod Warner

The book might be the perfect gift for HSBC CEO **Warner Manning**, who is one such Christmas + birthday celebrators. His 54th birthday will be extra-memorable this year because it is also a farewell celebration for this very amiable and energetic CEO.

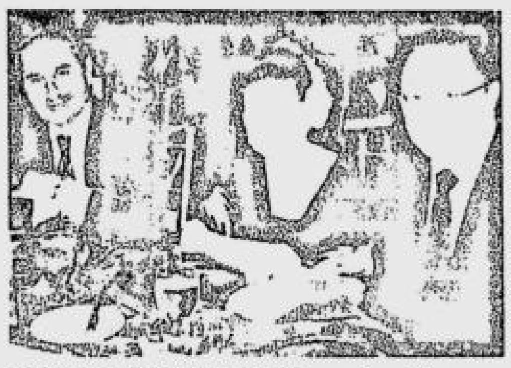
After six years of guiding HSBC at the top leagues of the banking giants, he and his lovely wife Julie will be moving to Australia at the end of the year. We will surely miss them both and can only hope the new captain will be just as warm and as generous as Warner has been.

All I can say is, "Warner, farewell, happy birthday and Merry Christmas!"

E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

NEWLY engaged Marcel Crespo and Celine Lopez with friends Tina Ocampo, Lulu Tan-Gan and Ricco Ocampo

ROYAL FAMILY. Mark and Tessa Ablaza, Louie and Mellie Ablaza, Czarina Syquia and Jun-Jun Ablaza



GENEROUS PLDT CEO Manny Pangilinan with Spanish Ambassador Ignacio Sagaz and Makati Garden's Maria Luisa Perez-Rubio

LIPA Mayor Vilma Santos

BIRTHDAY girl Leica Carpo and Cupcakes owner Sonja Ocampo

FORMER Chief Justice Art Panganiban and lovely wife Leni

UNILEVER CEO Howard Belton and wife Cristina

ELEGANT ladies Gloria Angara and Mita Rufino

GOOD-LOOKING couple Miguel and Barbara Aboitiz

DASHING couple Rep. Sonny and Tootsy Angara

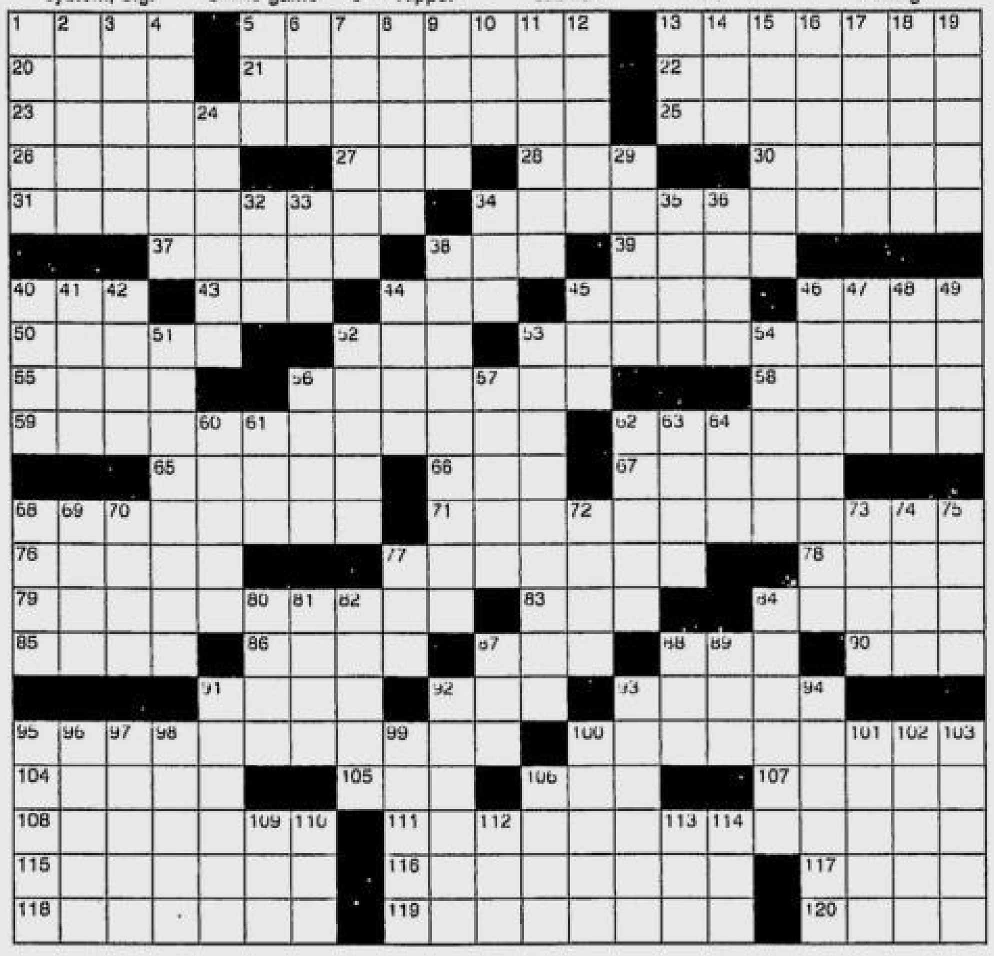
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

BODIES

ACROSS
1 Etna outflow
5 Pirate's face wear
13 Oreo maker
20 — du Vent (the Windwards)
21 Explosive
22 Quilt
23 Canadian, e.g.
25 Baby travels in it
26 Come next
27 Fido's doc
28 One of the Gershwins
30 Pee Wee of baseball
31 Exhausted
34 Bird dog breed
37 Aden locale
38 Pollen lover
39 Ship part
40 Ship pronoun
43 Jay-Z's style
44 Slip a cog
45 This spot
46 — and call
50 Tiny role
52 Pill-approving gp.
53 "I Dood It" comedian
55 Car rental company
56 Exercise system, e.g.
58 Bric-a-brac item
59 Purple Monopoly property
62 Obvious
65 In readiness
66 "Crossfire" channel
67 Minimal
68 More delicate
71 Graceful steed
76 "My Three Sons" son
77 Not at all gregarious
78 Salt Lake City college team
79 Slitherer with brilliantly colored bands
83 Set- — (brief fights)
84 Like cliffs
85 Novelist Wister
86 Leaning Tower site
87 "Absolutely!"
88 Fleetwood —
90 CIA figure
91 Rani's dress
92 Possessed
93 Dutch flower
95 Many an online game
100 Founder of United We Stand
104 Suspect's excuse
105 Hanoi site, for short
106 Jazz style
107 Tabriz native
108 Crowd around
111 Aniseed's flavor
115 Harness parts
116 Major happenings
117 River in Belgium
118 Vouches for
119 Surfing area?
120 This puzzle's theme features 10 of these

DOWN
1 Added an inner layer to
2 Unassisted
3 Vice —
4 "— in Scarlet" (first Sherlock Holmes story)
5 One of the Gabors
6 — Kippur
7 Preteen age
8 Removed the rind from
9 Bickering
10 Personal quirk
11 Actress Danes
12 Artist Matisse
13 Peacock network
14 — carte
15 With 56-Down, zigzagging rodeo event
16 Mini-map
17 Shooting sport
18 Desist
19 Weasel kin
24 Different: Prefix
29 Questioned
32 "— Believer"
33 Sales staffer
34 Suffix with cash
35 That girl's
36 Look for
38 Cranium
40 Healing sign
41 "— Nagila" (Jewish folk song)
42 Actor Jannings
44 Razor part
45 Coop cackler
46 Utter impulsively
47 To be, to Bardot
48 Dime, e.g.
49 Pretzel shape
51 Tallinn native
52 Flu symptom
53 Simulated, as a crime
54 Virtual money
56 See 15-Down
57 Novelist with the pen name Saki
60 PC chip giant
61 Twice LI
62 Fake name
63 Bell sound
64 Skillet
68 Art of Erte
69 In — (single-file)
70 Regarding
72 Life stories
73 Rds. with numbers
74 Ooze
75 Glimpse
77 Letters before a 62-Down
80 Practice boxing
81 Actor Robert De —
82 "It's —" ("This must mean something")
84 Roman general who defeated Hannibal
87 Tropical tuber
88 Greek letters
89 Capp and Hirt
91 Sales talks
92 Actor Harry
93 According — (without a hitch)
94 Actors Luke and Matthew
95 — the Hutt
96 Watchful
97 Drop in on
98 Put up with
99 Bar mitzvah official
100 "Today" weatherman
101 Hoist
102 — day (every 24 hours)
103 Levels
106 A followers
109 Catch on to
110 Slalom path
112 CIA figure: Abbr.
113 Suffix with infant
114 Ill. clock setting



answer on page H4

Auction raises funds for cancer society

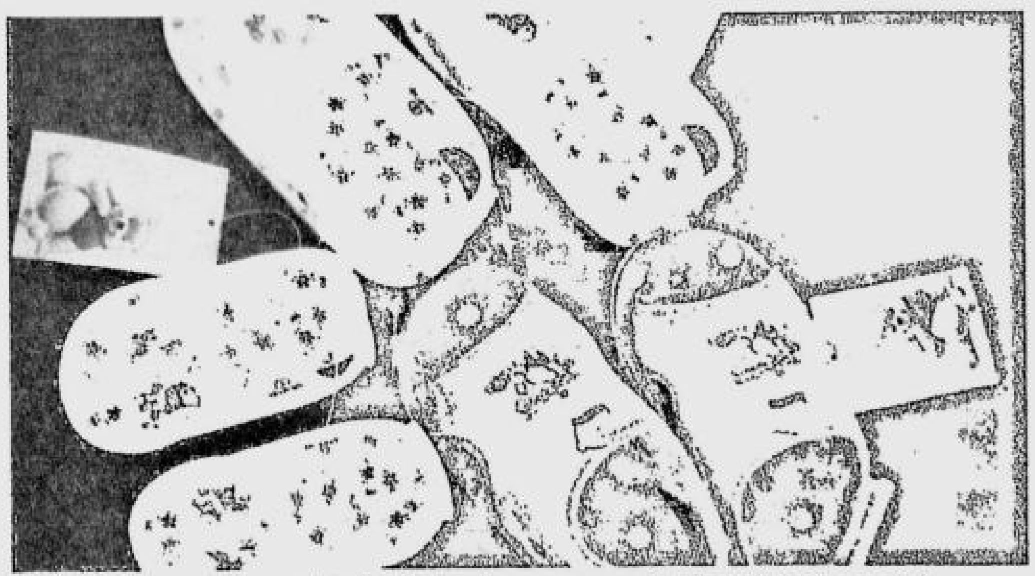
BRITISHINDIA HELD AN AUCTION for the benefit of the Philippine Cancer Society during the recent launch of its Fall 2006 Collection at the Power Plant, Rockwell, branch.

Auctioned off were necklace from Miladay Jewelry donated by Jacqui Dayrit-Boncan and timepieces from Technomarine and Officina del Tempo from Raffy Florencio of Rafael Jewelry.

Karen Calayan made the highest bid for the Officina del Tempo watch. Dr. Manny Calayan got the Technomarine watch while Ruth Vera successfully bid for the Miladay necklace.

Cinderella Marketing Corp., exclusive distributor of BritishIndia in the country, hosted the event.

FROM left, Cinderella's vice president for merchandising Richie C. Santos and marketing and communications director Malou de Venecia present a check representing proceeds from the auction to Philippine Cancer Society chair Dr. Roberto Paterno and executive director Dr. Mindo Fajardo.



ONCE the passport is completed with the stamps, upon exit, kids will receive special souvenirs like shoes, bags, ID holders and more!

Celebrate Winnie the Pooh's 80th

POP Star Kids finalists Vanessa, Renzo, Rita, Pocholo, Jessica and Julie Anne celebrate 80 years of friendships and adventures with Pooh, Tigger and Eeyore at The Block SM North Edsa.

SM SUPERMALLS AND TOY KINGDOM CELebrate Pooh and Friends: 80 Years of Friendship and Adventure.

Winnie the Pooh friends are invited to meet and greet the bear and his friends Dec. 8-12 at the Mall of Asia Music Hall and Dec. 15-18 at the SM Megamall Activity Center.

Every P300 purchase of Disney items at Toy Kingdom and SM Department Store's Toy Express, Character Shop, Children's Wear, Children's Shoes, Infant's Wear and Homeworld departments entitles a customer to a coupon that can be exchanged for a passport to enter Pooh's Hundred Acres Wood fun area.

Kids can collect stamps as they go through the different sections of the playground. They can visit Pooh's house and learn more about him and his friends and their fun and friendly adventures.

They can help tidy up Piglet's House by putting away the Hunny Pots and have a chance to win special prizes if they choose specially marked ones.

Kids can also wear costumes of Winnie the Pooh, Tigger, Piglet and Eeyore, and have a souvenir picture taken at the Photo Op Area; or bounce and jump like Tigger at the Inflatable Area.

Storytelling sessions about Pooh and his adventures will also be held.

When a passport has been fully stamped, kids can receive special souvenir items as they leave the playground.

At the Timezone Area, kids can play games like Ribbit Racin and Our Honey Bear Game with every purchase of one Pooh Collectible Powercard at any Timezone outlet. Those who get 400-500 points at the One Honey Bear game can pick a prize.

Kids can also bring home special edition Pooh 80th Year commemorative items at booths at SM Makati and SM Megamall. Items include stuffed toys, radio, pillows, caps, pencil bags and ID holders.

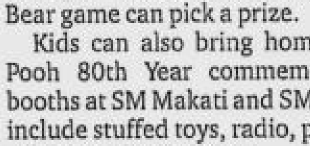
Winnie the Pooh was a character created by British author A. A. Milne based on his son's fascination with his stuffed bear.

Winnie the Pooh
Friends

SOFT and huggable Winnie the Pooh stuffed toy

Holiday activities for the family

SMART PARENTING MAGAZINE offers parents some ideas on things to do with the young ones this holiday season.



Some of these activities include watching a revived moving mannequin show (now in a new location in Greenhills), Christmas tree-gazing (top choice: the 85-foot tree at the Araneta Center in Cubao), and going to the Lantern Parade, a yearly tradition at the University of the Philippines. These grand displays of lights and decor only come alive during this time of year, so make sure to plan and visit these places with the whole family!

Grab the December issue of Smart Parenting magazine to discover more bonding activities that you and your family can do together this Christmas. Smart Parenting magazine is now available at magazine stands and bookstores for only P95 per copy.

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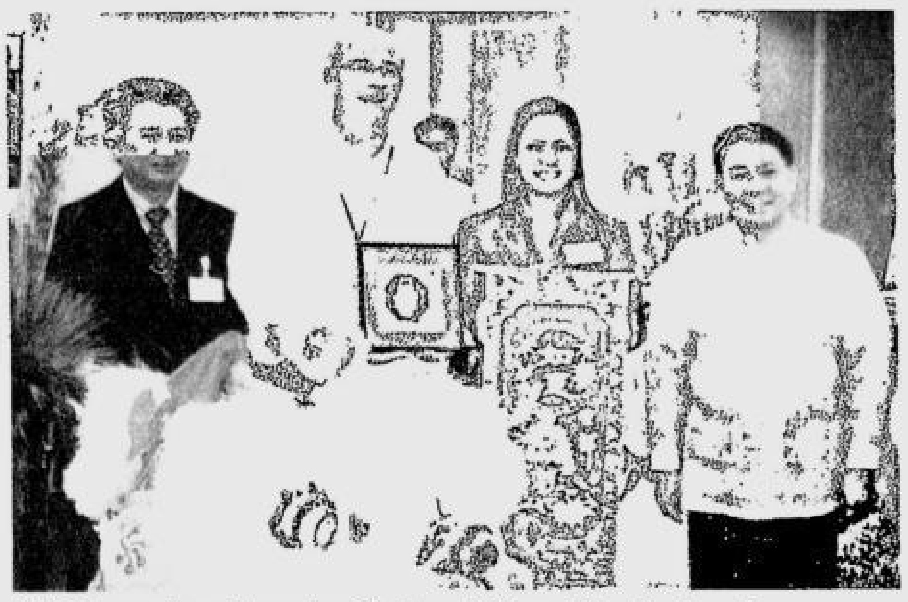
TIARA Ball host Mellie Ablaza and Helen Ong

December celebrators have to think of creative ways to lure friends into giving separate gifts

TIARA beauties Connie Guanzon and Nini Licaros



HSBC Legaspi branch opening: Gigi Laurel, Warner Manning, branch manager Alma Estacio and deputy governor Diwa Guinigundo

Christmas and birthdays

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

BIRTHDAYS AND CHRISTMASES are those momentous times when we all thrill at the prospect of receiving presents. Most of us enjoy this treat twice a year. The unfortunate ones are those born in December, who usually only receive one gift with a card saying, "Happy Birthday and Merry Christmas!"

December celebrators have to think of creative ways to lure friends into giving separate gifts. One sure-fire way is to host a birthday party, whether it be an intimate gathering, a highly entertaining event or a magnificently grand party worthy of kings. Whichever one chooses, bringing together family and friends is always a wonderful way of celebrating.

For her "Sweet 16th" birthday, stylishly chic **Leica Carpo** celebrated a Champagne and Cupcake Party with a Marie Antoinette theme. Dressed in her signature micro-minis, Leica hosted an after-dinner affair for an intimate group in a little dessert shop called Cupcakes by Sonja (tel. 8560308).

Serving delicious, pretty cupcakes, the store is quickly gaining buzz—that marketing phenomenon all entrepreneurs seek. One reason for the word-of-mouth, read-it-in-a-blog fame is that **Sonja** herself oversees the production, taste and quality of her pastries, and really enjoys entertaining customers in her tiny but sweetly designed shop.

Cupcakes is just one of the many growing establishments in Serendra, the newest, chill-out, hype-worthy destination at The Fort. The outdoor strip has a nice variety of full-range restaurants and shops like Gaudi's, World of Feng Shui and A Different Bookstore. It's wonderful that the dinner/party set now has added options for nighttime adventure.

For those celebrating milestones, intimate just doesn't cut it. Only an "event" will do.

In their 40s

Ravishing **Pops Fernandez** and suave **Anton San Diego** jointly celebrated their "big 4-oh" with an all-out, entertaining party at Conway's at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. The star-studded affair was filled with show-biz royalty, distinguished politicians and fabulous family and friends, all eager to fete the long-time friends with their best wishes.

The high-energy event started with a toast to the birthday duo and continued with performances from some of the country's most beautiful voices like **May Bayot** and **Cris Villongco**. To get the crowd into dancing gear, students from Steps Dance Studio of **Sophia Zobel Elizalde**, assisted by smashing impersonators of '60s diva Diana Ross and everlasting Cher, got everyone on their feet.

By the time my disco shoes were kicking in, the birthday cakes were rolled in and the guests cheered in unison. The dancing continued with About Eve Band and music by DJ **Cocoy Puyat**. Pops and her dashing beau **Jomari Yllana** danced until dawn.

Turning 40 has never looked so good as with these two best friends. Maybe Pops and Anton are just surrounded with love and laughter because they truly looked blissfully

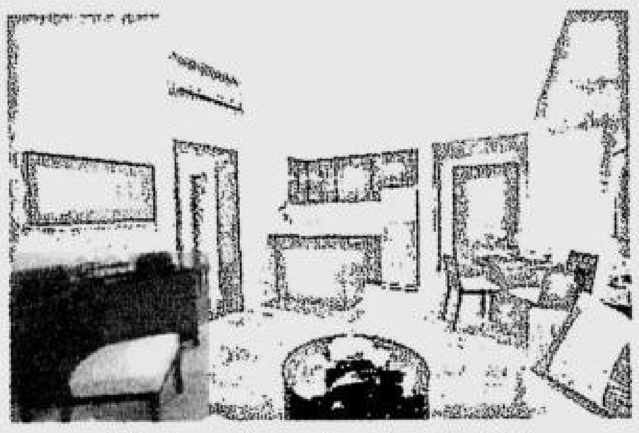
CHRISTMAS/J2

'80S PARTY. Mellie Ablaza, Czarina A. Syquia with cute Amanu

The St. Francis Towers at Shangri-La Place rises high in the city

The city is buzzing with excitement as the St. Francis Towers continues to rise at the heart of Mandaluyong. With units at the first tower almost sold out, the second tower was launched recently.

A development of Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts' Kuok Group, the 60-storey St. Francis Towers is a techno connected residence, employing wireless fidelity facilities or WIFI. The development will have excellent leisure and recreation choices like a state-of-the-art clubhouse with a gym, aerobics room, steam room, adult and kiddie swimming pools, Jacuzzi, children's indoor and outdoor play areas. There will be a multi-purpose room and banquet facilities, a laundromat, 24/7 convenience store and concierge service.



High-ceilinged and spacious

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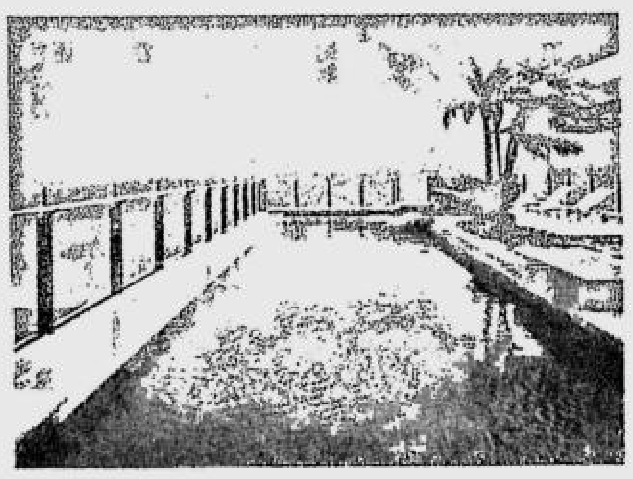
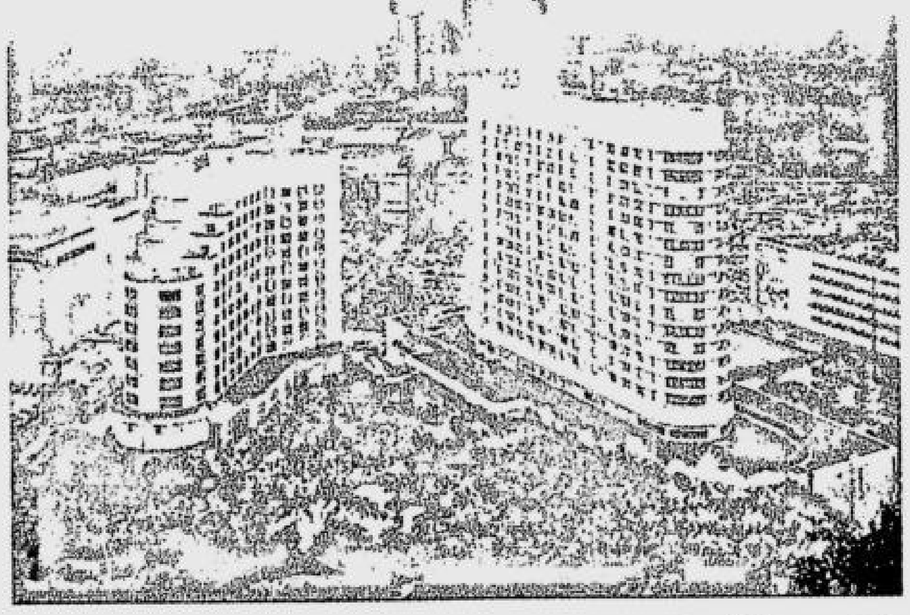
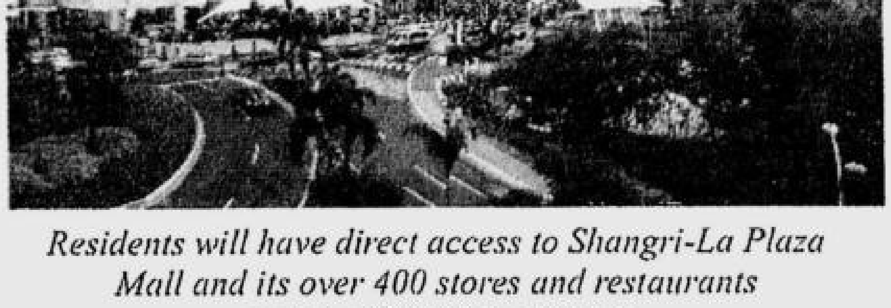


Luxurious grand penthouses



The St. Francis Towers, the future crown jewel of Shangri-La Place, will be linked by a comfortable walkway to Edsa Shangri-La Hotel

Residents will have direct access to Shangri-La Plaza Mall and its over 400 stores and restaurants, the Shang Cineplex and the MRT Shaw station. They will also have direct access to Edsa Shangri-La Hotel and the world-famous Chi Spa through a comfortable link bridge. Exclusive services from the Hotel including outside catering, laundry and dry cleaning, car and limousine rental, reservations in Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts will also be available to them.



Residents will have direct access to Shangri-La Plaza Mall and its over 400 stores and restaurants and the MRT Shaw Station

Within stone's throw from reputable schools, top hospitals and the Wack-Wack Country Club, once completed, the St. Francis Towers will be the tallest residential condominium in the Philippines, thus adding more prestige to an already prominent community.

The St. Francis Towers model units are available for viewing at the showroom beside Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Shangri-La Place, EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard.

For more information, call 634-8080, 634-8111
Fax: 634-7756 or E-mail: sales@thestfrancistowers.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2307 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or em**

MAU MARCELO

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

First RP Idol named tonight

THE FIRST "PHILIPPINE Idol" will be named tonight during a live telecast via ABC 5 from the Araneta Coliseum. The program starts at 9 p.m.

The final three contenders are theater actor Gian Carlo Magdangal, band vocalist Maureen Marcelo and employee Jan Kurt Nieto.

Last night was the grand finale of the search that started in July. The face-off was held also at the Big Dome and telecast live on ABC 5. Public voting via phone and SMS commenced immediately after the finalists' performances and was to be conducted for only two hours. Hence, the results were to have been tallied way before tonight's announcement.

Gian Carlo

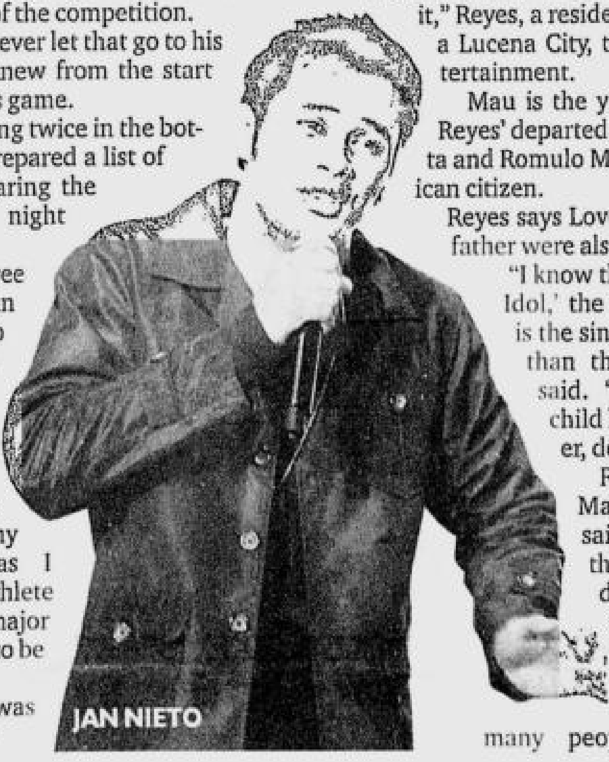
He looks the part, acts the part and sings the part. So said the judges themselves in some past episodes of the competition.

But Gian said he never let that go to his head, and that he knew from the start that it was anybody's game.

In fact, after landing twice in the bottom three, he had prepared a list of people to thank, fearing the next performance night would be his last.

From bottom three to final three—Gian was not about to take chances. Interviewed early this week, he said, "I'm eating the right food, finding time to exercise, and trying to conserve my voice as much as I can—like an athlete preparing for a major competition. I have to be in top form."

Of course his eye was always on the prize.



JAN NIETO

"I'm saving the best for last," Gian said. "I know that we're at the mercy of text voters. I'm just praying to reach the finish line and sway the votes in my favor."

More importantly, he said, he's happy that "Idol" led him to his true calling.

"I learned about teamwork, patience and singing for an audience, not for myself."

Mau Marcelo

With no cell phone of her own to send her votes with, sixtysomething Erlinda Reyes resorted to praying and lighting candles for her granddaughter Mau or "Lovely."

"Even if I had a phone, I wouldn't know how to use it," Reyes, a resident of a Lucena City, told INQUIRER Entertainment.

Mau is the youngest child of Reyes' departed daughter Teresita and Romulo Marcelo, an American citizen.

Reyes says Lovely's mother and father were also good singers.

"I know that in 'Philippine Idol,' the important thing is the singing voice, more than the looks," Reyes said. "But my grandchild has gotten lovelier, don't you think?"

Reyes, whom Mau calls "Nanay," said she regretted the fact that she didn't have money to "fully support" her grandchild's quest.

"Thank God, many people have been helping her," said Reyes. "Even in the market, the vendors keep telling me that they have been sending text votes for Mau.

GIAN CARLO MAGDANGAL

Mau used to be known in her hometown as "Samantha Brown," a name she made up to match her renditions of songs popularized by Afro-American singers.

"We are happy with the turn of events," said Mau's stepsister Jenelyn Ilagan. "She is confident she will be the lucky one."

Mau's father, who works in a casino in Las Vegas, was set to arrive yesterday to watch his daughter perform.

Jan Nieto

"I have been vocalizing early in the morning and early in the evening in preparation for the grand finale's performance night," Jan said in a phone interview on Friday. He admitted that he was the "dark horse" in the competition.

"I also fight stress by doing jumping jacks and pushups backstage," he said.

He hadn't slept enough lately, he said, as he had been rehearsing the three songs he was to perform last night—"Say That You Love Me," his personal choice; "Sway," the judges' choice; and "Evergreen," producer Sony BMG's choice.

Asked whom he considered his strongest rival, Jan said both Gian and Mau were hard to beat. "*Ako 'yung* coming from behind," he adds, laughing.

With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr. Inquirer Southern Luzon

Romero's film gets special A from CEB

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD (CEB) has unanimously given the new digital movie directed by National Artist for Film Eddie Romero with a "special A" grade.

CEB chair Christine Dayrit said the precedent-setting resolution signed by the board entitles Romero's "Faces of Love" a 100 percent amusement tax rebate and "full government support."

"'Faces' is a significant part of [Romero's] filmography and belongs to the national treasury," Dayrit said. She said the movie was also awarded a "co-production investment deal" by the Film Fund. CEB and the Film Fund are both under the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP).

The Film Fund has awarded Romero P3.8 million to blow up the digital material to 35mm prints for nationwide distribution, promotion and marketing, Dayrit said.

This was confirmed by Romero. "We need P1.3 million for kinescoping (the process of blowing it up). We plan to have at least 15 prints, at P50,000 each." He said the film will be blown up either here or in Thailand.

Play date moved

Because of this development, Romero decided to move the film's opening from Dec. 6 to late January 2007.

The new date also gives Romero plenty of time to publicize the movie, noted Dayrit. "We want to make sure it will be promoted well so that a lot of people will get to watch it" she said. "We are thinking of tie-ups with corporations and institutions. Perhaps the Department of Education and movie organizations can recommend it to students."

Romero initially received a P2-million grant from the National Commission for Cul-

ROMERO/ K3

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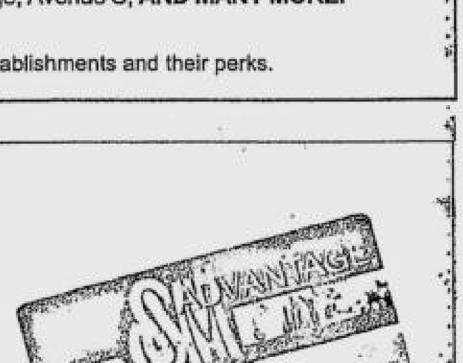

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1	A GOOD YEAR	2:55, 5:40, 8:25, 11:00	PG-13
2	HAPPY FEET	1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00	G
3	CASINO ROYAL	1:10, 4:20, 7:30, 10:40	PG-13
4	THE NATIVITY	1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00	G

An 'enjoyable' film for Crowe

RUSSELL Crowe in "A Good Year"

TAKE FIVE

RUSSELL CROWE IS RE-UNITED WITH HIS friend, director Sir Ridley Scott, in "A Good Year," a man who gets to rediscover life amidst the beguiling beauty of the Luberon, a region of Provence in the south of France where he learns that life, like good wine, should be savored.

How did you and Ridley come to decide on this project?

After "Gladiator," everybody expected us to do something with buckets of blood and all that sort of stuff. This one neutralizes those expectations. It just lets people know that from a filmmaking perspective, we're not going to start making things for other people. We are going to do the thing we want to do.

Was it an enjoyable film to make?

It was lovely, I had a great time—the place is gorgeous. Living in a rural area that is so intensively farmed also comes with its own great reward because you see how it all changes and unfolds from season to season. We got there in the middle of summer and you are surrounded by green vines and green trees, and two months later it's all dark reds and oranges and yellows.

Did you enjoy the physical comedy?

Yes, very much. The movie has references to Jacques Tati and Harold Lloyd and there's physicality in the performance that I really wanted to go with.

How's the family?

Absolutely great, thanks. My little boy Charlie is a delight and a wonder and now he has a lovely little baby brother to play with. Couldn't be better, thanks for asking.

SHANG CINEPLEX

① A GOOD YEAR
MTRCB PG-13
1.45, 4.30, 7.15, 10:00

② THE NATIVITY
MTRCB GP
12.20, 2.45 5 10, 7 35, 10 00

③ HAPPY FEET
MTRCB GP
12.05, 2.30, 5:00, 7.30, 10:00

④ CASINO ROYALE
MTRCB PG-13
12.55, 4 00, 7 05, 10.10

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MTRCB GP

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 REYNA	2 THE NATIVITY	3 HAPPY FEET	4 INANG YAYA
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE NATIVITY	2 BORAT	3 THX CASINO ROYALE 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 A GOOD YEAR	5 THE RETURN	6 HAPPY FEET	7 ALL THE KING'S MEN
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 HAPPY FEET	2 THE NATIVITY		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX A GOOD YEAR 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX HAPPY FEET 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 CASINO ROYALE 1:50, 4:40, 7:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 ALL THE KING'S MEN 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE NATIVITY 1:15, 3.20, 5:25, 7:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE NATIVITY GUARANTEED SEATS	2 A GOOD YEAR		
	3 HAPPY FEET	4 DECK THE HALLS	5 CASINO ROYALE	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE NATIVITY	2 HAPPY FEET	3 THE MARINE	4 REYNA
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 REYNA	2 THE NATIVITY		
	3 A GOOD YEAR	4 HAPPY FEET	5 INANG YAYA	

At the Activity Center

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Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272: from 10am to 9pm
Greenbelt 757 4853, from 11am to 9pm
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782: from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! 886 7519

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MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13
20th Century Fox glorietta Greenbelt

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CHRISTOPHER de Leon with Angel Aquino, far left, and Juliana Palermo, left, in "Faces of Love."

Romero's film gets special A . . .

From page K1

ture and the Arts (NCAA).

"As a National Artist, I have a P1-million grant every year. I availed of my grants in 2005 and 2006 for this movie," he said.

The 82-year-old filmmaker said he was "very comfortable" moving from film to digital. "Digital technology made shooting much easier," he said. "There was less equipment to lug around and setting up was much faster."

He also worked with young filmmakers on this project. Cinemalaya Best Director 2005 Rica Arevalo co-wrote the script with him. Assistant director is Paolo Villaluna, who co-directed the A-rated digital movie "Ilusyon."

The director's son, filmmaker Joey Romero, served as line producer, with Robbie Tan of Seiko Films as project consultant.

Described by CEB as "vintage Romero, the breezy and inspired film" stars Christopher de Leon, Angel Aquino, Juliana Palermo, Alfred Vargas, Chanda Romero, Bembol Roco, Rodel Velayo, Mon Confiado, Chinggoy Alonso and Jackie Aquino.

LORNA TOLENTINO
GINA ALAJAR
TIRSO CRUZ III
BOOTS ANSON-ROA
CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA
RICHARD GUTIERREZ
ANG
我愛你
MANO PO 5
GUA AI DI I LOVE YOU
A FILM BY JOEL C. LAMANGAN, DGPI
MS. JACLYN
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Glaiza DE CASTRO
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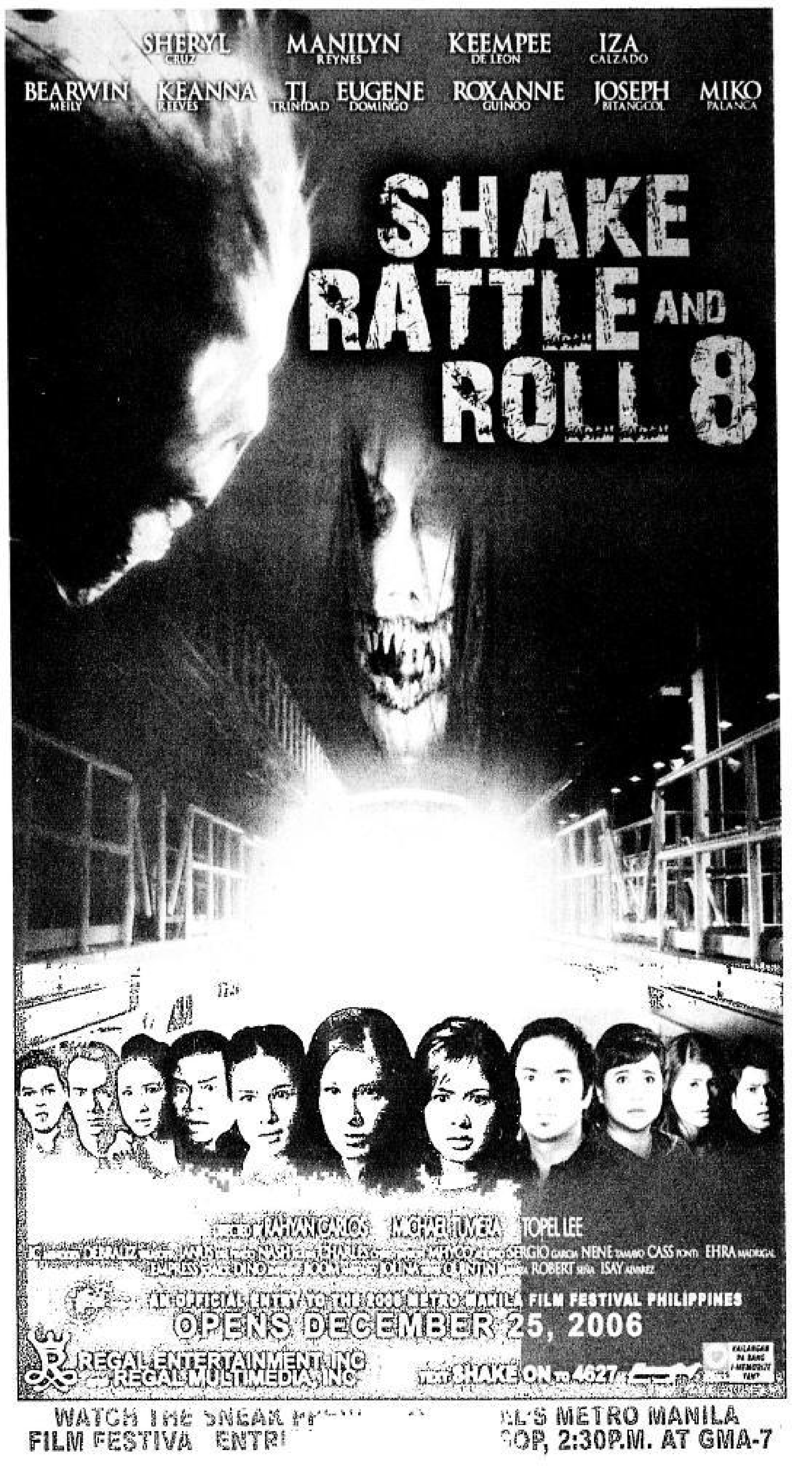

SHERYL CRUZ
MANILYN REYNES
KEEMPEE DE LEON
IZA CALZADO
BEARWIN MEILY
KEANNA REEVES
TJ TRINIDAD
EUGENE DOMINGO
ROXANNE GUINOO
JOSEPH BITANGCOL
MIKO PALANCA
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RAHYAN CARLOS
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MARK HERRAS
SUPER NOYPI
DIRECTED BY QUARK HENARES
MONSOUR DEL ROSARIO
AUBREY MIRANDA
ANDREW MUHLACH
BING PIMENTEL
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'Casino Royale': Maximum Bond-age

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

EVA GREEN and Daniel Craig

WHILE THE CASTING of Daniel Craig as Agent 007 was met with skepticism not too long ago, his portrayal in "Casino Royale" is proof that the actor indeed has a future as iconic spy James Bond.

Craig, who has previously appeared in "Tomb Raider" and "Layer Cake," doesn't look at all like the more sophisticated, more spruced-up former 007s. He's blond, has distracting cup-handle ears and mostly looks like a bully, but because the material gave him an edgy, contemporary roughness, he's just perfect for this revamp.

This sixth actor to play Bond is convincing and a compelling presence, too, as he's able to show sides to him that make him less cocky, more sympathetic. As we've seen a parade of numerous, hard-hitting TV and movie super-spies in recent years, "Casino Royale" does away with some of the camp, and restructures 007's world into a more serious, more timely post-9/11 environment.

Arsenal discarded

The arsenal of high-tech gadgets has been discarded for now, although the technology shown here is much more realistic, and still very cutting-edge. The focus is mostly on Bond's sparer, back-to-basics approach in tracking down, or interacting with prey that he must eventually take down, and he does that well with his more available resources.

That includes his ability to charm women; this new incarnation still does that well, and Craig injects a newer, tough-guy appeal into him. He's paired with the equally intriguing Vesper Lynd (Eva Green from "Kingdom of Heaven"), a feisty, analytical treasury official tasked to accompany him during an undercover assignment that involves casino gambling. Green is just right; she's given plenty to do, and the characterization makes her among the more interesting, more memorable Bond girls.

Speaking of the women in Bond's filmic life, Judi Dench is still delightful as the ever-infuriated M. As Bond's boss, she's regretting the agent's recent promotion, because while tremendously promising, he has a tendency to recklessly go off in unsupervised missions. Still, Bond is undoubtedly the best agent for the job, and he's sent after a big-time, high-priority crook named Le Chiffre (Mads Mikkelsen). Bond engages the tear duct-impaired bad guy (he weeps blood, sometimes) in a poker game, which is easily the film's slowest, most disengaging part. It's not the best way to explore his foe's villainy—he's sorely lacking in dimension for most of the movie—but Le Chiffre gets to do truly despicable things later during a torture scene, anyway.

"Casino Royale," directed by Martin Campbell ("Vertical Limit," "Mask of Zorro"), imaginatively reintroduces the super-agent. And just like the latest installment of other long-lasting film franchises where actors playing the protagonists can be replaced, it rejuvenates the property anew for changing times and audiences. With Craig as the new, differently dashing, occasionally grouchy, and somewhat more vulnerable James Bond, pop culture's premier super-spy has gotten more relevant and exciting again.

Oscar race heads into key week with critics awards

LOS ANGELES—HOLLYWOOD'S annual Oscar race heats up this week with a key group of US movie awards and nominations that is expected to narrow contenders for the world's top movie awards.

Little-seen films like "Half Nelson" with its star Ryan Gosling, "Babel" with Cate Blanchett and director Pedro Almodovar's "Volver" starring Penelope Cruz need strong showings this week to compete with current Oscar front-runners

"Dreamgirls," "The Departed" and "Little Miss Sunshine." "If one movie or one performance starts winning those (critics awards) regularly, that says to Academy members, 'we've got to take a look at this,'" said Tom O'Neil, columnist for awards-watching Web site, TheEnvelope.com.

The National Board of Review, a nearly 100-year-old group of film and other professionals, on Wednesday picks its top movies.

Following it are awards from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association and New York Film Critics Circle.

After those, come nominations from the Broadcast Film Critics Association, and on Dec. 14 the Hollywood Foreign Press Association names its widely watched Golden Globe Award nominees.

The Oscars are given out each year by the US-based Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and winners for 2006's movies will be named on Feb. 25. Oscars bring prestige, bigger box office and greater DVD sales.

This year's race for best-film Oscar was wide open until recent weeks when musical "Dreamgirls" and director Martin Scorsese's box office hit, "The Departed," a crime drama, established firm front-runner spots.

That pair is joined by quirky comedy "Little Miss Sunshine"

and Britain's "The Queen," about Queen Elizabeth dealing with the crisis surrounding Princess Diana's death, as the likely contenders among the five nominees to come.

"For anybody else, it's up for grabs," said Pete Hammond, a film critic for Maxim magazine.

Mirren vs Dench?

Oscar watchers are curious to see if "Babel," director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's look at cultural divisions, can overcome a mixed reception among U.S. critics.

Similarly, Almodovar's "Volver" has wowed critics but had only limited success at box offices, and Oscar voters like to see audiences turn out in theaters for its award hopefuls.

Experts said "Volver" may likely yield a best actress nomination for its star Penelope Cruz, but the Spanish beauty needs a boost this week from critics to keep her in the race.

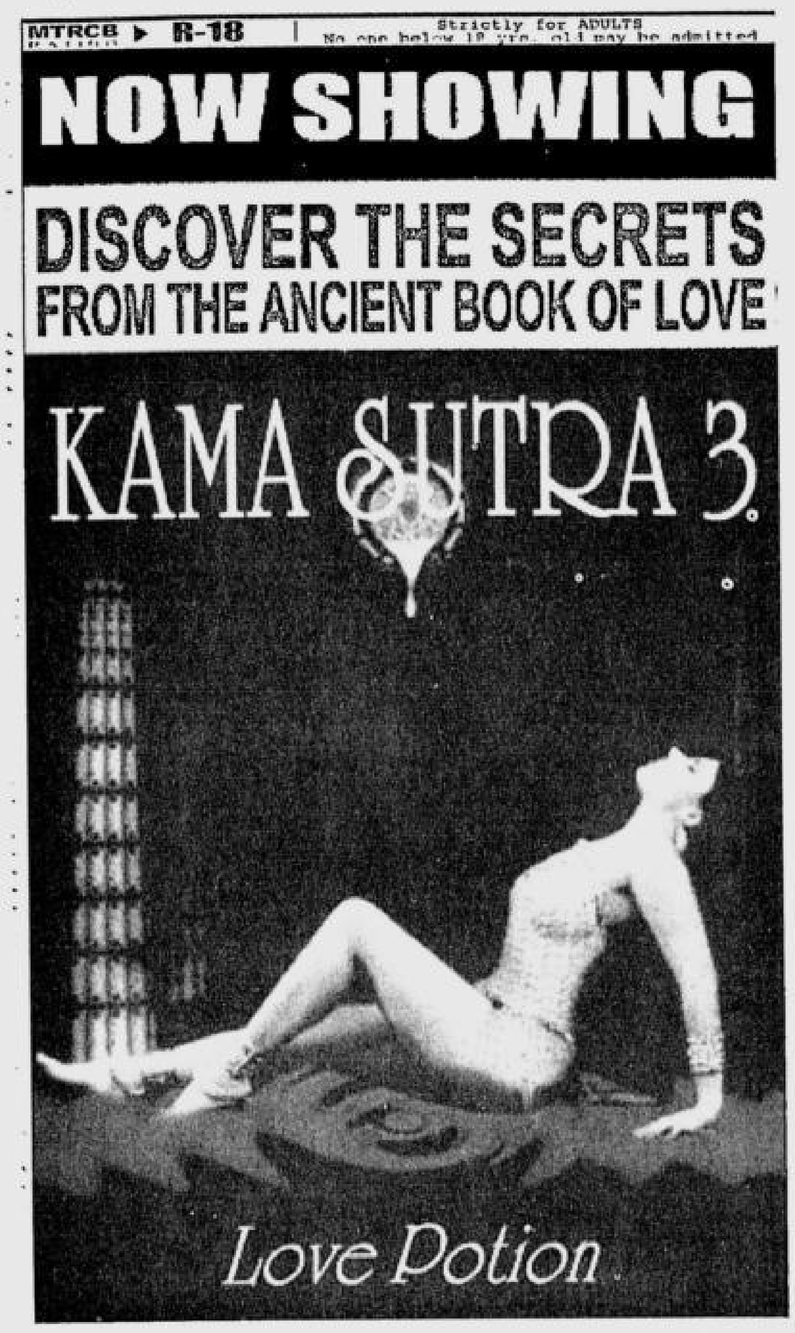
Overall, the best actress race is more crowded than it has been in many years with Helen Mirren in "The Queen" and Dame Judi Dench for "Notes on a Scandal" taking early front-runner status alongside Kate Winslet in the dark drama "Little Children." *Reuters*

THE BEATLES
LOVE

The Beatles' . . .

From page K6

be this big, flowing showcase of the rock and roll greats' distinct talents. Fans from way back, as well as newer ones unfamiliar with the vinyl format, will be pleased that it gathers material from different eras in the band's discography and provides an altogether different listening experience. The Beatles' collective musical artistry is packaged anew into a must-have addendum that reflects the experimentation and relevance of their original recordings. Go get it, already.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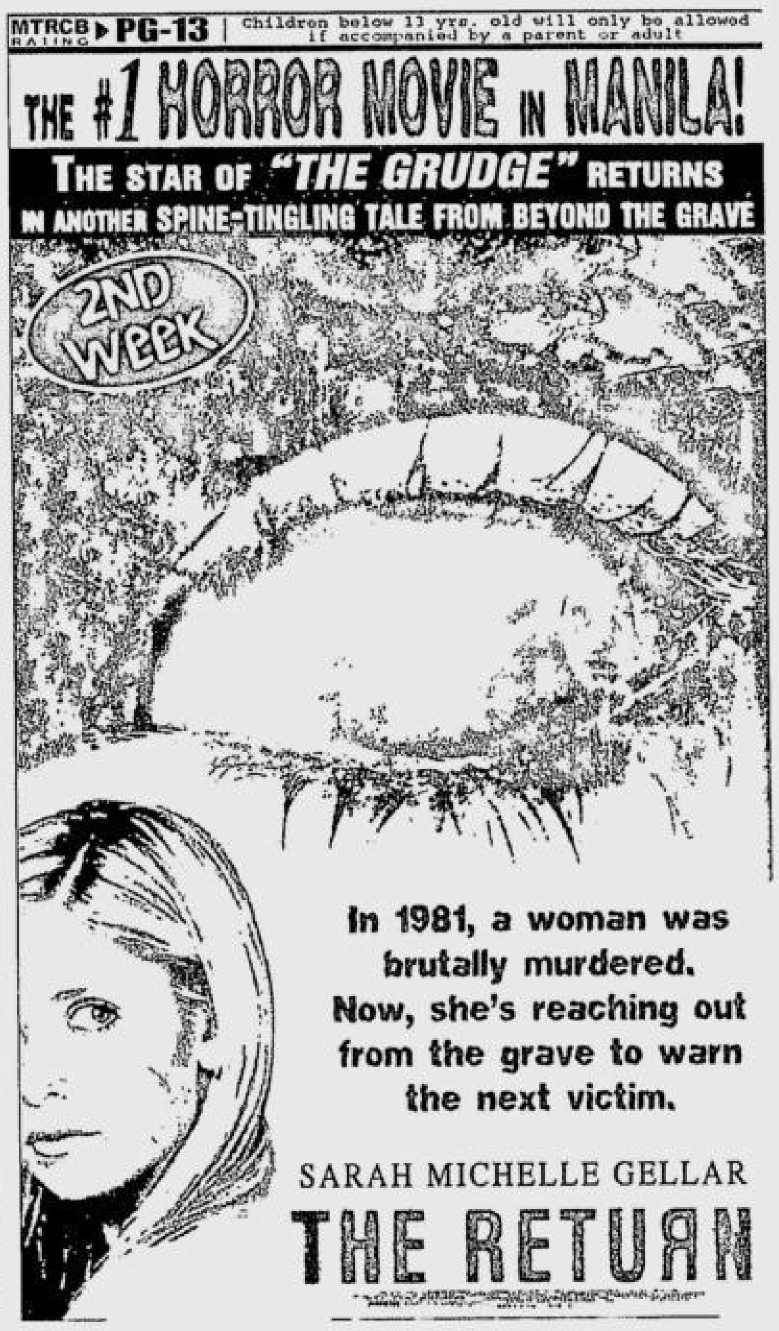
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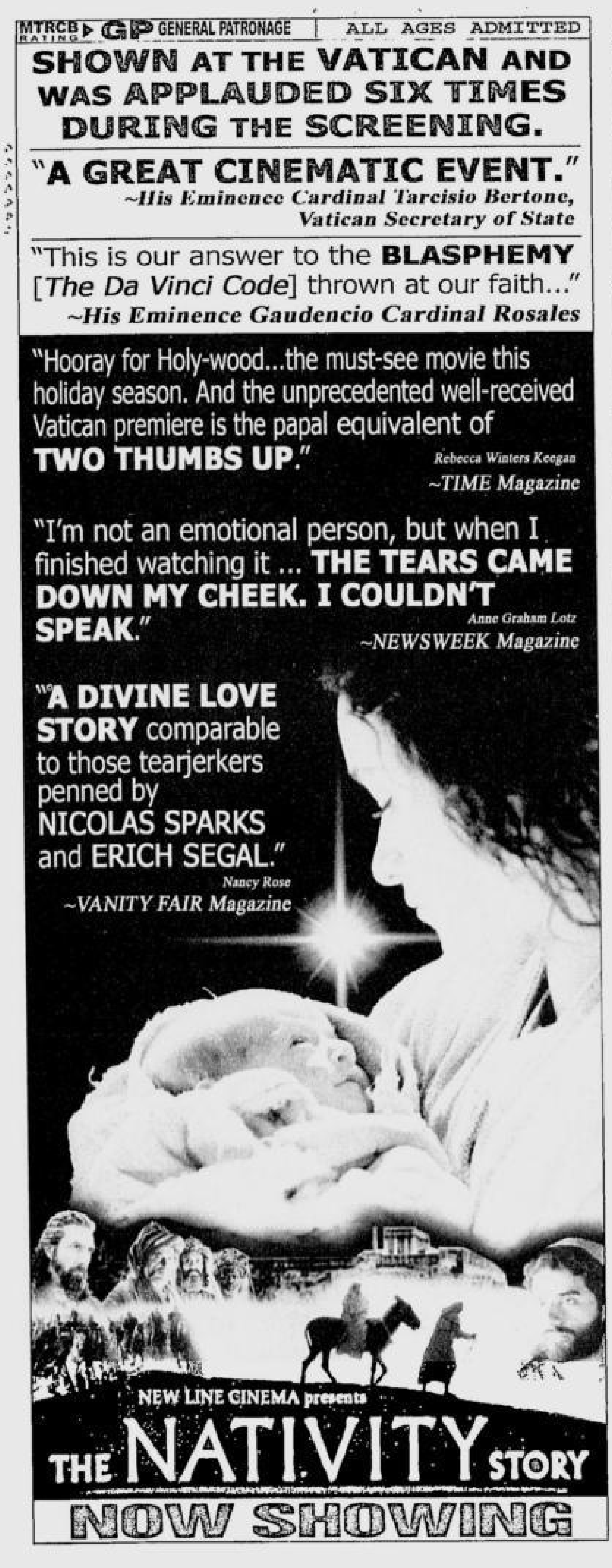
THE RETURN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~TIME Magazine
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ALL THE KING'S MEN 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40
INANG YAYA :00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40
DECK THE HALLS 5:00 / 9:30
THE RETURN 1:00 / 3:00 / 7:10
HAPPY FEET 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
KAMASUTRA 3 12:50 / 3:05 / 5:20 / 7:35 / 9:50
CASINO ROYALE 1:20 / 4:10 / 7:00 / 9:50
REYNA 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
ALL THE KING'S MEN 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
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INANG YAYA 11:55 / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35
CASINO ROYALE 12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
THE NATIVITY 1:05 / 3:30 / 5:55 / 8:20
REYNA 11:45 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25
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'Inang Yaya' commands attention, respect and involvement

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MARICEL SORIANO'S CURRENT STARRER, "Inang Yaya," is one of her best thespic showcases ever. For this perceptive and finely crafted production (directed by first-timers **Pablo Biglang-Awa** and **Veronica Velasco** for Unitel), Maricel drops most of her signature acting ties, in favor of a simply but deeply felt portrayal that is luminous, affecting and inspiring to behold.

In the family drama, Maricel plays the "Mommy Yaya" of spoiled, English-speaking Louise (**Erika Oreta**), the daughter of yuppies portrayed by **Sunshine Cruz** and **Zoren Legaspi.**

They're often busy with work and social obligations, so Maricel has been their daughter's surrogate mom. Louise may be a hoity-toity brat, but she loves her *yaya* to bits.

Trouble is, Maricel has a daughter of her own in the province—Ruby (**Tala Santos**), who's being cared for by her grandmother (**Marita Zobel**), and aches for her mother's presence.

That's the film's central irony: Maricel is forced to earn money for her daughter by taking care of—and loving—somebody else's child, while her own daughter grows up without a mother.

Yes, her basic needs are paid for, but there's a hole in her heart that nothing and nobody can fill—aside from her hardworking mother, who perforce is unable to.

It's a hurt as old as the movie hills, but "Inang Yaya" makes it especially painful by *not* going whole hog in the melodrama and tearjerker departments.

All of the movie's hurting characters wear their pain on their sleeves, but they don't beat themselves—and the film audience—black and blue and bathetic with it. Such restraint is admirable and exceedingly rare to see on the local screen.

In any case, the emotionally untenable situation changes when Maricel is forced to bring her daughter to live with her in her employers' home.

Alas, the change is not necessarily for the better, as the two girls from both sides of the social divide bicker and fight for Maricel's love.

Other problems intrude and obtrude, until one "inang yaya" doesn't know how else to divide himself up to please all of the people who demand her attention and affection.

Yes, she makes the "right" decision in the end, but only after so much struggle and strife. And the viewer suffers and learns along with her.

> It is one of Maricel's best thespic showcases ever

This is Maricel's movie, but interestingly enough, Sunshine Cruz also comes on strong in this production. And the two new child actresses who play Louise and Ruby turn in absolutely pitch-perfect performances.

This early, we bet that, come film awards time, they'll win a slew of trophies as an ensemble act—together!

Beyond excellent performance, however, "Inang Yaya" commands attention respect and involvement as one of the better films of 2006.

Do yourself a favor and catch it soonest—among other beneficial effects, it will help restore your admiration for Filipino films.

'Mee-Shee'

BRUCE Greenwood leads the stellar cast of "Mee Shee: The Water Giant," the latest film by **John Henderson**, whose past movies include "Loch Ness," "The Borrowers" and "Two Men Went to War."

In the new film, a young boy is devastated when his perfect vacation with his father is cancelled due to an emergency salvage mission at a remote Canadian lake.

When he discovers that the lake is known as the home of a mythical creature, Mac makes it his mission to prove that the myth is based on fact.

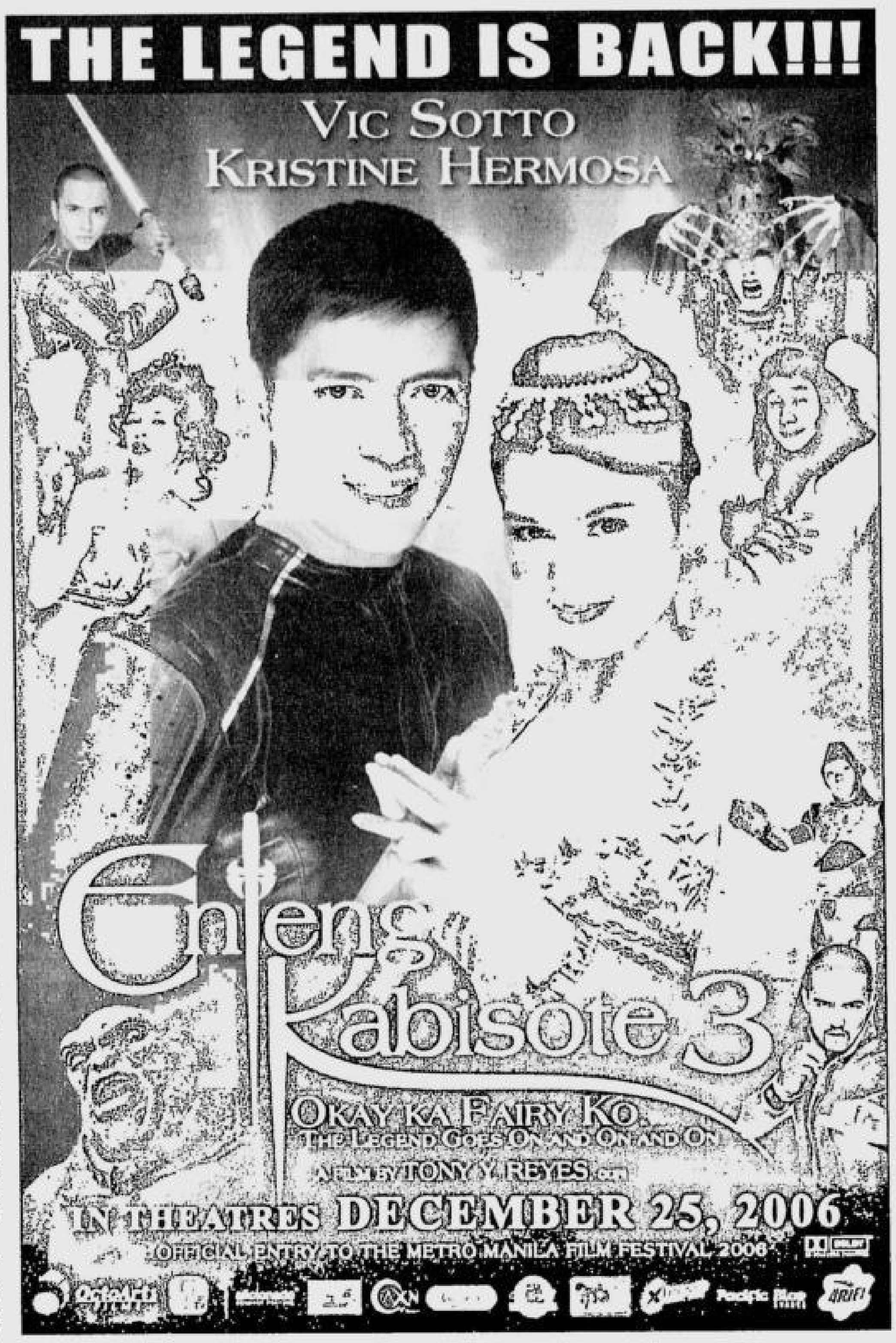
Forging a connection with the creature is easier for Mac than getting his Father's attention—until both man and beast need all the help they can get.

SPIN CITY

JOSE MARI CHAN

Double Diamond

JOSE MARI CHAN will be given a Double Diamond Record Award for his "Christmas in Our Hearts" album (Universal Records) today on on GMA 7's Sunday noontime show, "SOP." With more than 600,000 units sold, "Christmas in Our Hearts" is the biggest selling OPM Christmas album of all time.



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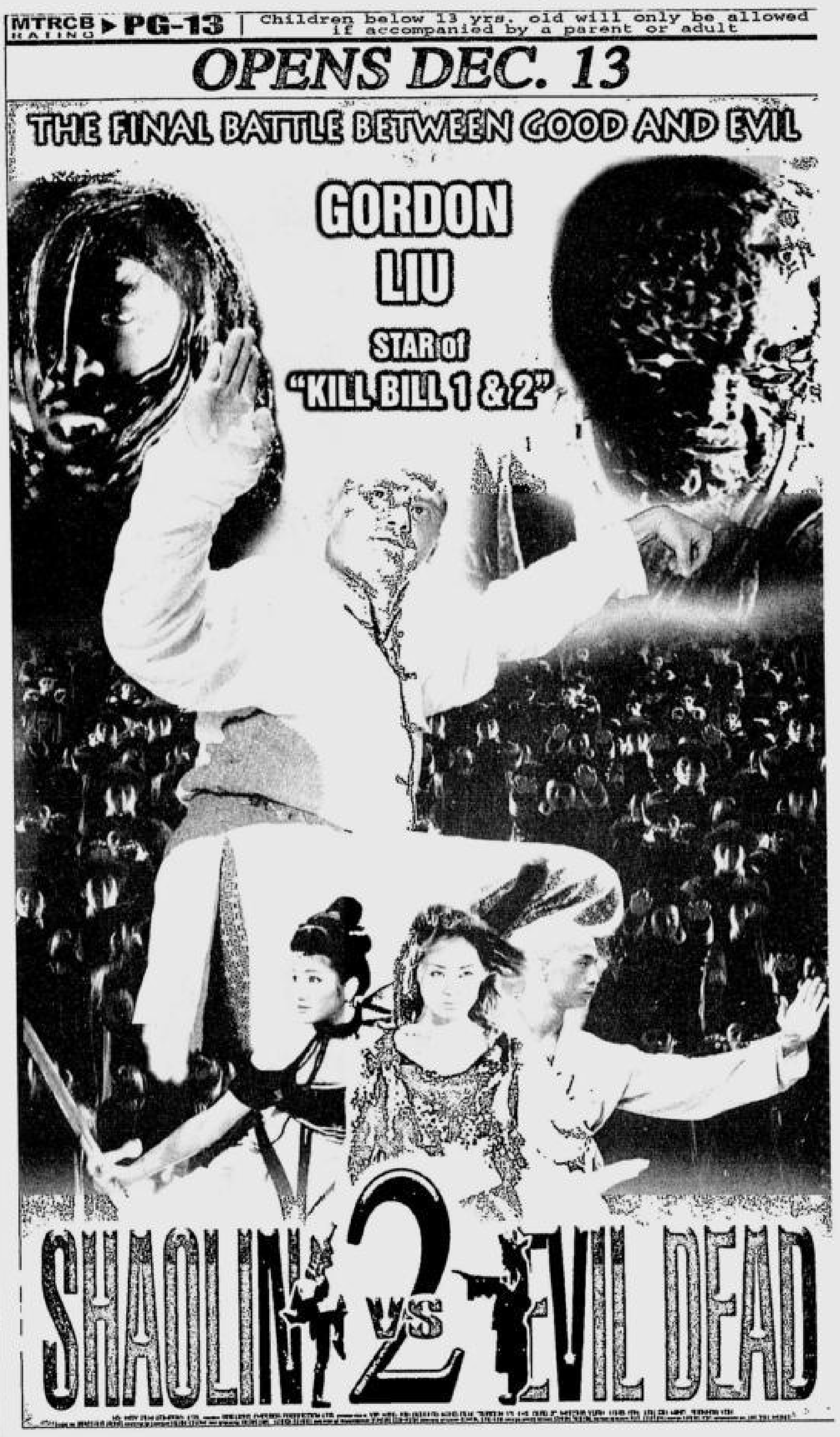

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The Beatles' 'Love' everlasting

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

PRODUCER George Martin and his son Giles

THE BEATLES LIVE ANEW WITH THE CREative resuscitation of their songs in the new album "Love," which boldly fuses over two dozen hits together into a lively series of medleys. Conceptualized as a soundtrack for Cirque Du Soleil's Beatles-themed show, "Love" connects a carefully chosen set seamlessly. Trusted, longtime producer George Martin and his son Giles were tapped to work on the project, and they were encouraged by the surviving band members to be as adventurous as they possibly can on it.

It's designed to accompany the Cirque acrobatics and colorful dance performances, but the album definitely stands on its own. It's probably the closest thing to how a live performance by John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr might sound today, as the Martins' cleverly executed refurbishing of the classic material has cleaned up recordings that are now over 40 years old. The voices and instruments seem magnified to a point that they're very clear and intimate, while layered enough to have that stadium-sized reach and tangibility. Adding to that is a contemporary vibe, as the instrumentation and sampling from other Beatles songs are smoothly sneaked into the digitally remastered and remixed items.

A cappella

The soothing a cappella harmonies of "Because," for instance, are followed by the opening riff of "A Hard Day's Night," which soon playfully veers into the actual, full-length song "Get Back." The next tune, "Glass Onion," segues hauntingly to the stringy, swirling "Eleanor Rigby." The transitions are generally smooth, and pauses between "acts" are abrupt and barely noticeable. The melding of elements from different sources also works finely, especially in "Drive My Car/The Word/What You're Doing," and the conjoined "Blackbird" and "Yesterday." "Love" explores this compatibility in beats, vocal tracks and melodic arrangements in the other pieces, and emblazons them into a cohesive whole.

Distinguished

The fun, sometimes, is in figuring out where specific pre-existent components like bass lines and such were gleaned from. The lyrical content's stories of the featured songs nevertheless remain intact and atmospheric; the abstract imagery of "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" and "Strawberry Fields Forever" still work well for this retooling. "Here Comes the Sun," "Hey Jude" and other fan-favorites remain as vivid, emotionally pumped and audibly pleasing as ever, their alterations only staying mostly in either their beginning or end parts.

The influential, distinguished band's "Love" treatment needs to be listened to as a whole and in sequence, as it's constructed to

THE BEATLES'/ K4

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avo
watch what happen

WILL Smith and wife Jada at New York party for "The Pursuit of Happyness" REUTERS

Cruise a surprise guest at 'Devil Wears Prada' party in LA

Will Smith's son steals the show ... Jane Seymour is caught up in Pacquiao fever

IMAGINE
Flowers are offered before a large portrait of John Lennon at the John Lennon Museum in Saitama City, suburban Tokyo on Friday to commemorate the former Beatle's murder on Dec. 8, 1980 in New York. The museum was built with the support of Lennon's Japanese widow Yoko Ono. AFP

LOS ANGELES—GUESS WHO SHOWED UP at the party last Tuesday evening to toast the success of "The Devil Wears Prada," which has become one of the year's biggest comedy hits?

No, not the devil, but newlywed **Tom Cruise**. The superstar, fresh from his honeymoon, planted himself in the living room, right by the front door, in the home of hosts **Jessica** and **Tom Rothman**, co-chair of Fox Filmed Entertainment. The actor gushed about his baby girl Suri ("Beautiful!") and told us he could stay only for an hour because he wanted to be back home in time to tuck in his baby girl.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

"The Devil" star, **Meryl Streep**, eschewed the couture look that her deliciously wicked fashion editor character would wear to a party like this (lights by Fil-Am **Brian So**—more about him below). Instead, Meryl wore a comfortable-looking black blouse and pants and matched that relaxed look with glasses and no make-up.

We told the great actress that we normally don't watch movies on the plane but when "The Devil" came on during one recent flight, we couldn't help but grab the headphones and watch her boss-from-hell Miranda Priestly fling bags at **Anne Hathaway**'s character again. She broke into that glorious Meryl Streep laughter and said that her friends told her the same thing. "But I speak so softly that when I talk onscreen, all you hear is bzzzz, bzzzz, bzzzz."

Not quite, Ms Meryl. On the plane, we still relished the way she icily dissed to Anne's character, "That's all."

Anne was there, too, looking lovely as usual. And so was **Emily Blunt**, Meryl's other assistant in the film. Emily, whose eyes are as beautiful and soulful as they are onscreen, said she was going straight from the party to shoot a scene for her new film.

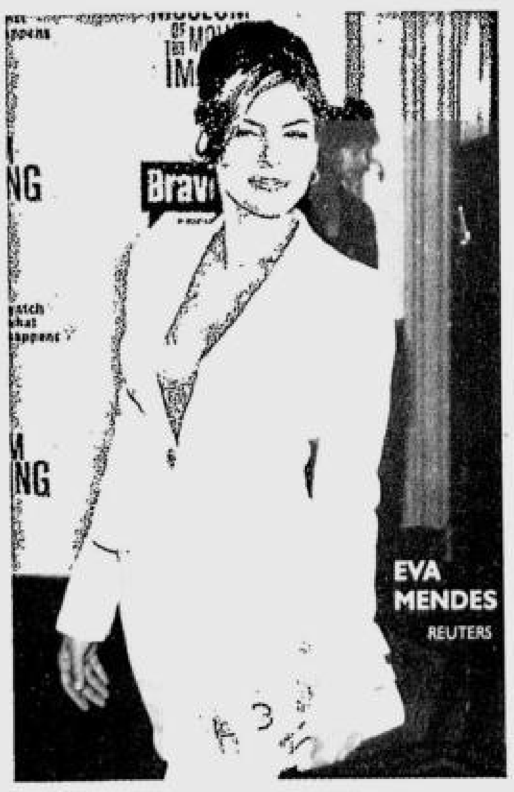
We also bumped into **Stanley Tucci**, Meryl's right-hand man in the movie, who graciously acknowledged our kudos for his performance in the movie.

Quick-change artist

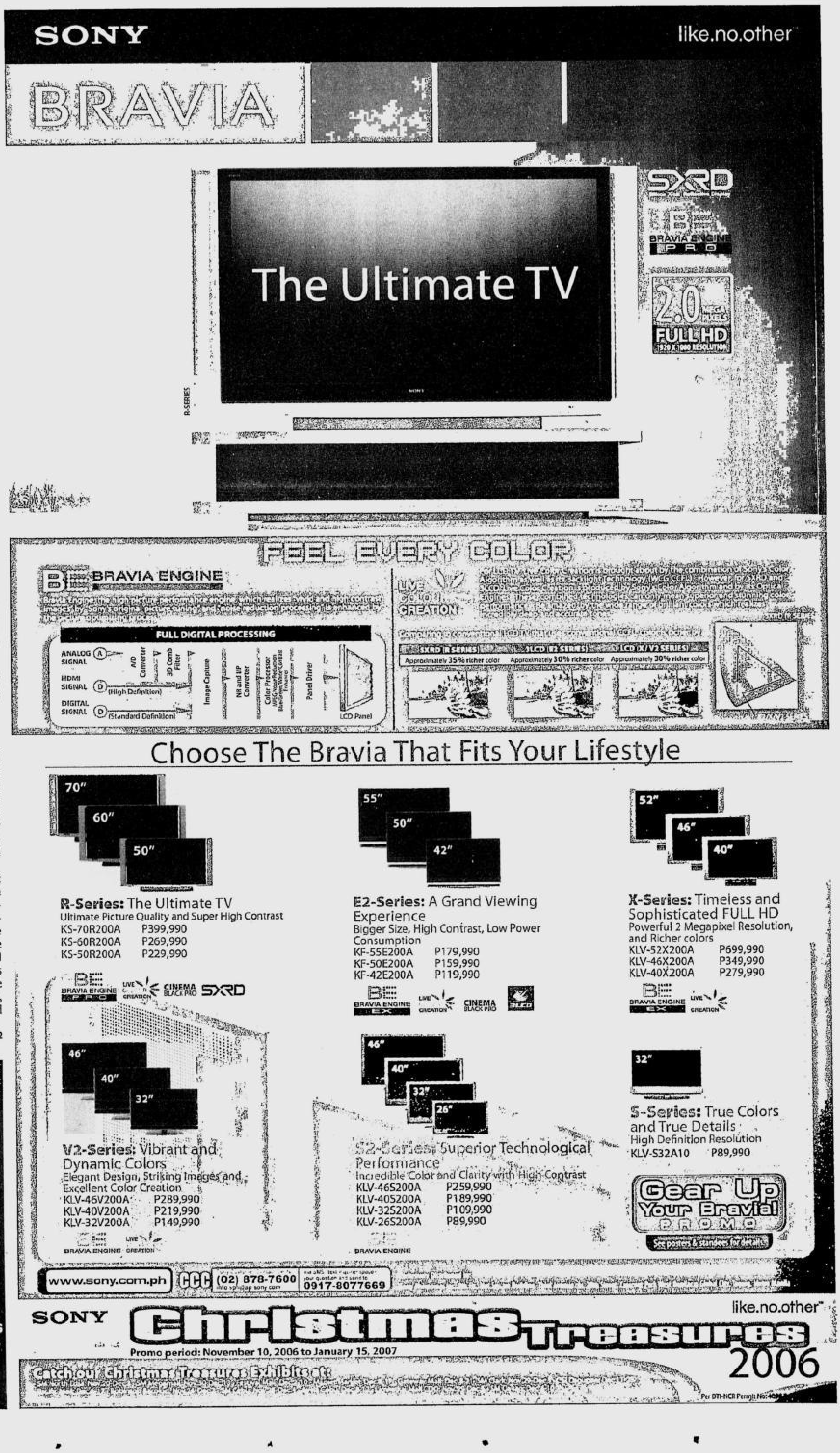
Cate Blanchett, whom we interviewed earlier in the day for her film with **George Clooney**, "The Good German," shared that she was leaving that night to be with her kids again in her native Australia. She was a quick-change artist—she wore a stunning Armani dress in our press con and afterwards, we saw her climb aboard an SUV in jeans. At the party, she wore that Armani outfit with a bow in the back again.

Speaking of "The Good German" (it's shot in the 1940s, black-and-white style, with Cate evokings Marlene Dietrich and all those glamorous screen sirens of that era), there are several almost interchangeable movie titles these days. Aside from "The Good German," there are **Russell Crowe**'s "The Good Year" and **Matt Damon**'s "The Good Shepherd" (Matt is excellent in the film about the origins of the CIA). So the Hollywood joke these days is, "Have you seen 'The Good Year of the Good

CRUISE/ L2



EVA MENDES
REUTERS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3 THE NATIVITY STORY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE RETURN
5 RESERVED

metropolis star
(ALABANG) tel. 8504265, 6433894
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2 REYNA
3 ZU WARRIOR
4 HUWAG KANG LILINGON

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2 PITONG DALAGITA
3 THE MARINE

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Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
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3 BORAT
4 HAPPY FEET
5 THE NATIVITY STORY
6 A GOOD YEAR
7 INANG YAYA
8 REYNA
9 KAMASUTRA - 3
10 HUWAG KANG LILINGON

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
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2 (DOLBY) REYNA
3 (DOLBY) HAPPY FEET
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

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Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
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2 A GOOD YEAR
3 REYNA
4 NATIVITY STORY
5 HUWAG KANG LILINGON

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1 INANG YAYA
2 THE COVENANT
3 PITONG DALAGITA
4 ANG PAMANA

Masagana CINEMA
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3 THE RETURN

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Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
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2 FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
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2 REYNA
3 INANG YAYA
4 FARGILE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 INANG YAYA
CASINO ROYAL 007 JAMES BOND

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
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2 HAPPY FEET
3 CASINO ROYAL
4 THE NATIVITY

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Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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2 THE MARINE
3 HAPPY FEET
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146
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3 HAPPY FEET
4 REYNA

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
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2 HUWAG KANG LILINGON
CASINO ROYAL 007 JAMES BOND

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2 PITONG DALAGITA
CASINO ROYAL 007 JAMES BOND
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Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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3 FRAGILE / BORAT

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CASINO ROYAL 007 JAMES BOND
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2 THE COVENANT

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 SHAOLIN VS EVIL DEAD - 1
2 TUKSO SI CHARITO
3 PATIKIM NG PINYA
4 KALELDO

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 THE LOVERS
3 THE MARINE
4 REYNA
5 THE GRUDGE - 2

Fiesta World Mall
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2 FEAST
3 BORAT
4 REYNA

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THANK YOU FOR SMOKING

Meet Nick Naylor, the chief spokesman of the Academy for Tobacco Studies, whose job is to be in favor to smokers and cigarette makers. Usually confronted by conservative lawmakers (who legislates on putting poison labels on every pack), Naylor resets the agenda by devising ways to shut up cancer patients to speak against smoking and by enlisting an A-List Hollywood director to make smoking "cool" in movies. But at the end of the day, the curiosity of his son about his job makes Naylor think another perspective for their future.

WARNING: Watching this movie is not dangerous to your health.

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GRIDIRON GANG
A GOOD YEAR
THE NATIVITY
DECK THE HALLS
REYNA
PREMIERE CINEMA
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DIRECTOR'S CLUB
RESERVED
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CINEMA 1
THE NATIVITY
CINEMA 2
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THE RETURN
WAG KANG LILINGON
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INANG YAYA
A GOOD YEAR
HAPPY FEET
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MEE-SHEE
THE NATIVITY
CASINO ROYALE

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DECK THE HALLS
REYNA
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A GOOD YEAR
THE RETURN
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REYNA
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INANG YAYA

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PITONG DALAGITA

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HAPPY FEET
INANG YAYA
THE RETURN
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FEAST
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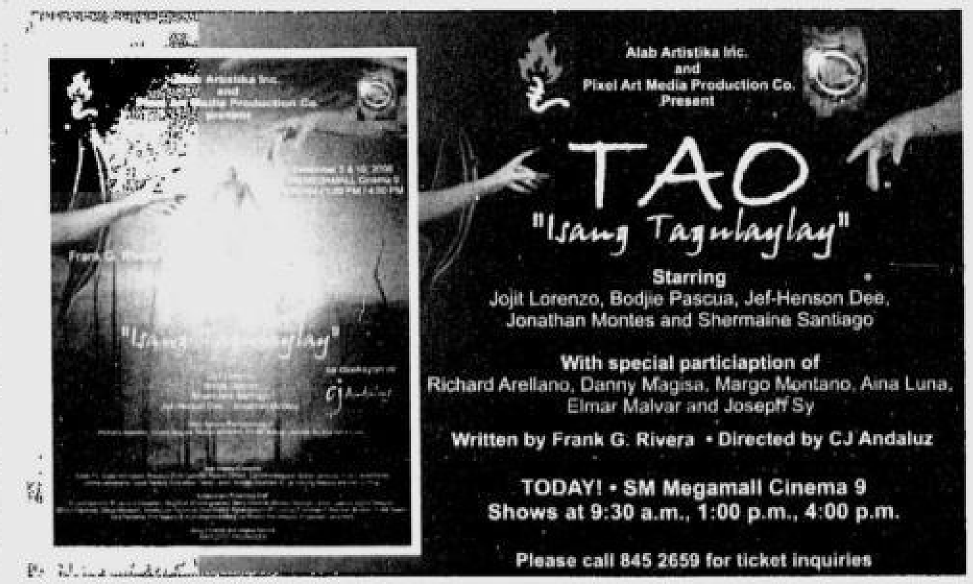

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Cruise a surprise . . .

JADEN SMITH

From page L1

German Shepherd'?"

When we shook hands with **Forest Whitaker**, we asked him, "Are you ready to go back to Balic-Balic?" We wrote earlier that when we interviewed Forest for his acclaimed film "The Last King of Scotland" in Toronto, he surprised us by mentioning Balic-Balic as the location of a house in Manila where he stayed at the height of the People Power Revolution (he was in the country to film **Oliver Stone**'s "Platoon"). This time, Forest told us that his Filipino friend from that period is now based in Japan.

The actor, who was declared Best Actor by the National Board of Review for his portrayal of Uganda's late strongman, **Idi Amin**, in "The Last…" the day after the bash, said that he is taking a break from his Filipino martial arts classes because of a foot injury.

Pacquiao fever

Actress **Jane Seymour**, who is also a painter, volunteered to us that she was in Las Vegas for an art show on the week of the **Manny Pacquiao-Eric Morales** bout. She said that she got caught up in the Manny Pacquiao fever because the Filipino boxer's name was on everyone's lips. Jane came with her husband, actor-director **James Keach**.

Also seen sampling New Zealand lamb chops, sushi, lobster canapés, mini-cheeseburgers and chicken satay, among other cocktail food, were singer **Avril Lavigne**, actor **Greg Kinnear**, actress **Allison Janney** and directors **Jim Sheridan** ("In the Name of the Father") and **Jason Reitman** ("Thank You for Smoking").

At one point, Meryl, Cate and Allison huddled in one corner—when three good actresses talk, wonder what the topic is?

We were proud to meet Brian So again after many years. He dis-

CRUISE/L6

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Rockwell Center, Makati City
Tel. No: 8981440-41
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DECK THE HALLS G 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25	HAPPY FEET G 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30	A GOOD YEAR PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15
CASINO ROYALE 007 PG13 1:15,4:10,7:05,10:00	BORAT R18 2:00,4:00, 6:00, 8:00,10:00	THE NATIVITY STORY PG13 1:35,3:45,5:55, 8:05,10:15

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PG-13
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GP
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8:05 , 10:35
PG-13
CINEMA 4 CASINO ROYALE
12:10, 3:20, 6:30
9:40
PG13
CINEMA 5 HAPPY FEET
11:00, 1:15, 3:35,
5:55, 8:15, 10:35
GP
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

DEC 11 , 2006	Apo Hiking Society	8:30 PM
DEC 16 2006	Nyoy Volante	9:00 PM

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PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
DEC. 12 , 2006	DYORDS KO PO	8:30 PM
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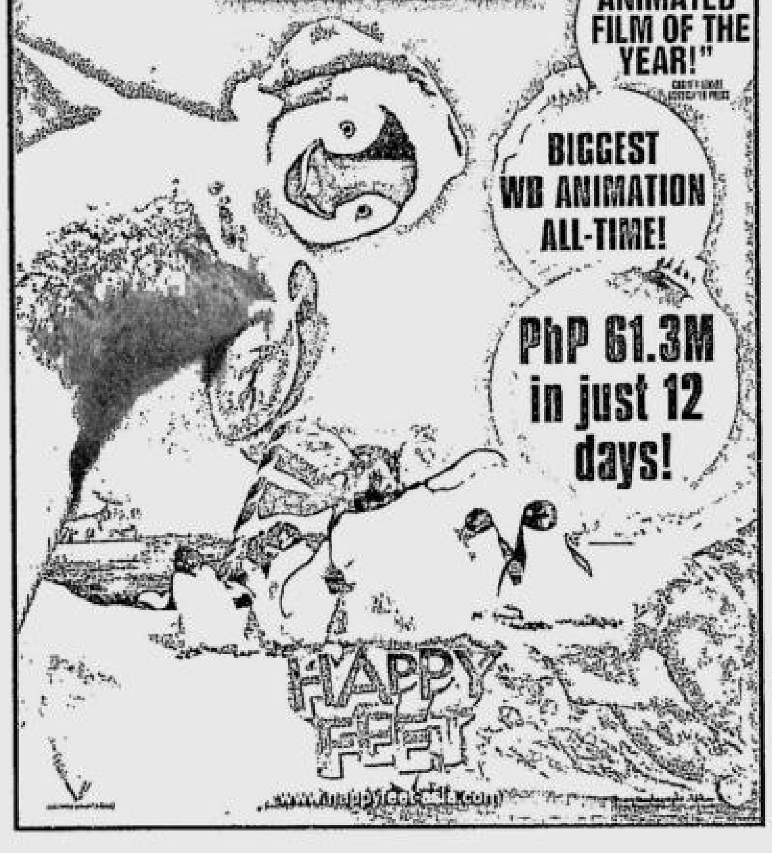

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ROUNDUP

Cinemanila funding

The Cinemanila International Film Festival Foundation and the Movie Workers Welfare Foundation, Inc. received P1 million each in assistance from the President's Social Fund.

The assistance was turned over by Secretary Cerge M. Remonde of the Presidential Management Staff to Cinemanila festival director Amable "Tikoy" Aguiluz VI and Mowelfund chairman Espiridion Laxa.

The support covers payment for the operational expenses in the 8th Cinemanila International Film Festival last month and the social welfare projects of Mowelfund.

'Penguin Baywatch'

"Penguin Baywatch—Antarctica" premieres tonight at 9 on Animal Planet and encores tomorrow at 11 p.m.

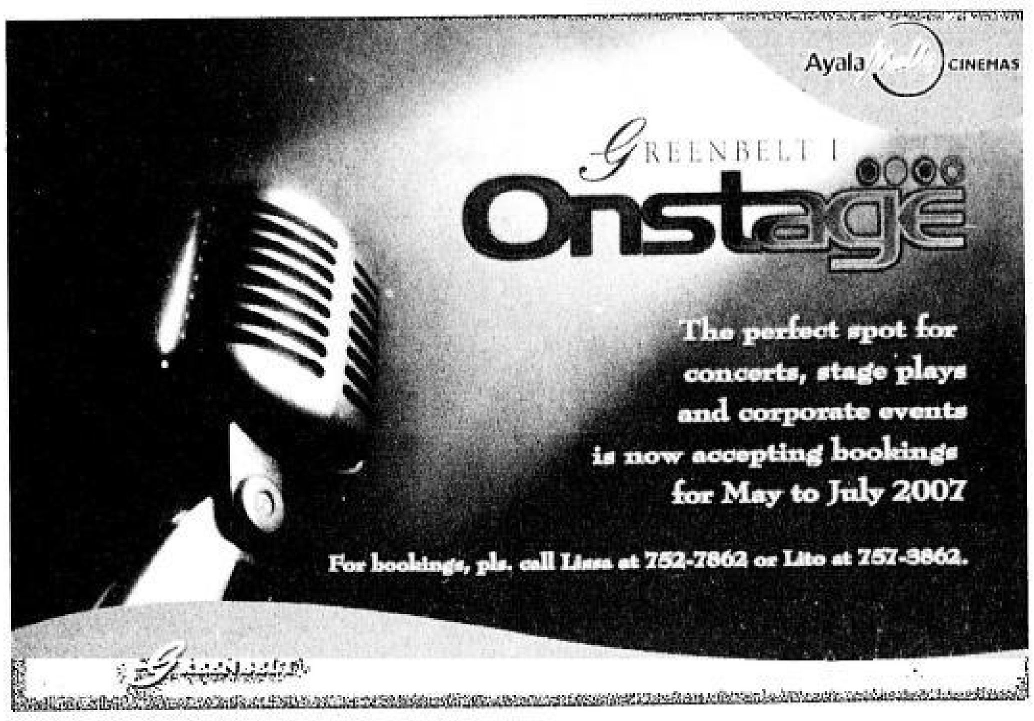
The show features the penguin's survival tactics in the predatory waters, escaping the lethal grip of hunting leopard seals, as they attempt to reunite with their mates.

Carell comedy

Steve Carell follows up his "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" hit with Fox Searchlight's quirky family comedy "Little Miss Sunshine."

Carell plays Frank, who recently attempted suicide after a downward spiral that began with a mixture of unrequited love and losing his self-proclaimed position as America's preeminent Proust scholar.

The film will be shown exclusively at Ayala Malls Cinemas—Glorietta 4 and Greenbelt 3—starting Dec. 13.



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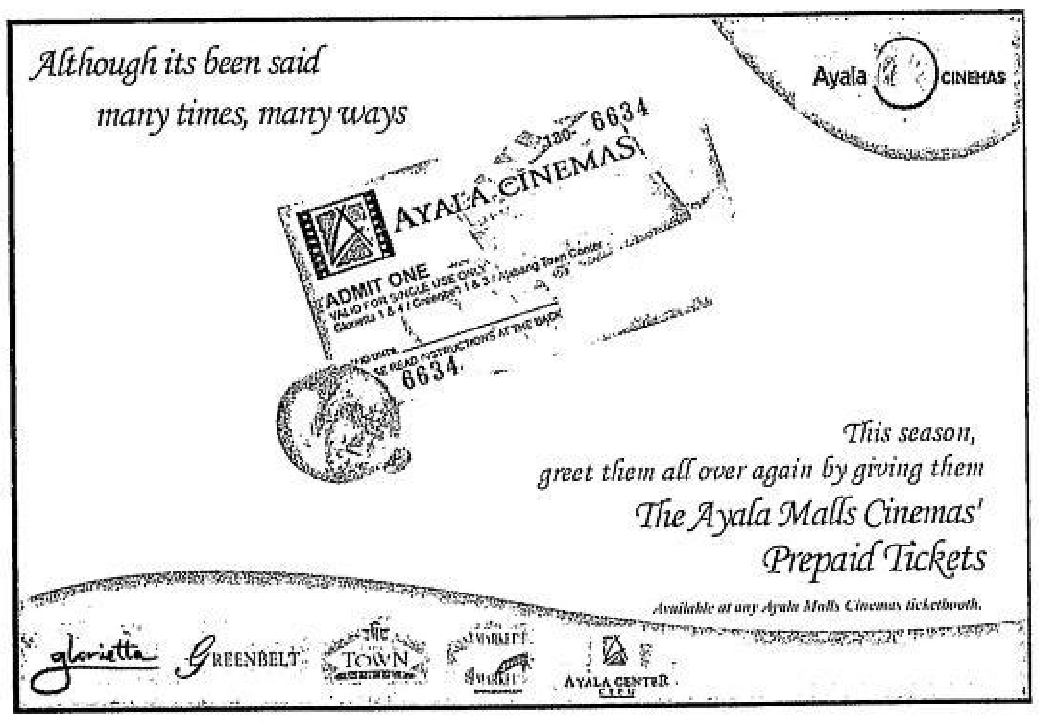

Although its been said
many times, many ways
Ayala Malls CINEMAS
This season,
greet them all over again by giving them
The Ayala Malls Cinemas'
Prepaid Tickets
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glorietta Greenbelt The Town Market! Market! Ayala Center Cebu

NALALAPIT NA ANG PINAKA-HIHINTAY NA PAG-IISANG DIBDIB NINA
Judy Ann Santos at Ryan Agoncillo
SA PINAKA-MALAKI AT PINAKA-AABANGANG KASALAN NG TAON!!!
Kasal Kasali Kasalo
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JOSE JAVIER REYES
METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL - PHILIPPINES OFFICIAL ENTRY

MARAMING MARAMING SALAMAT, MGA KAPUSO!
Tunay pong walang kasing-sarap ang manguna sa inyong puso.

OCT-NOV 2006
OVERALL CHANNEL RATINGS
Mega Manila TV Households TOTAL DAY (6am-12mn)

GMA	16.7
ABS-CBN	14.7
DIFF (GMA-ABS)	2.0

OCT-NOV 2006
OVERALL CHANNEL RATINGS BY DAYPART
Mega Manila TV Households TOTAL DAY (6am-12mn)

	MORNING (6am - 12 nn)	AFTERNOON (12nn - 6pm)	EVENING (6pm - 12mn)
GMA	9.1	17.2	23.7
ABS-CBN	7.9	16.2	20.1
DIFF (GMA-ABS)	1.2	1.0	3.6

15 OUT OF THE TOP 25 PROGRAMS
ARE ON GMA
Mega Manila TV Households TOTAL DAY (6am-12mn)

RANK	PROGRAM	CHANNEL	RATING(%)
1	CAPTAIN BARBELL	GMA	31.9
2	BAKEKANG	GMA	30.9
3	ATLANTIKA	GMA	29.7
4	KAPAMILYA DEAL OR NO DEAL	ABS-CBN	29.2
5	24 ORAS	GMA	29.0
6	BITUING WALANG NINGNING	ABS-CBN	28.3
7	SUPER INGGO	ABS-CBN	27.6
8	BITOY'S FUNNIEST VIDEOS YARI KA!	GMA	24.8
9	TV PATROL WORLD (Mon-Sun)	ABS-CBN	24.7
10	MAGING SINO KA MAN	ABS-CBN	24.4
11	PINOY POP SUPERSTAR YEAR 3	GMA	24.4
12	KAPUSO MO, JESSICA SOHO	GMA	23.9
13	EAT BULAGA	GMA	23.0
14	A ROSY LIFE	GMA	22.8
15	MAALAALA MO KAYA	ABS-CBN	22.6
16	KOMIKS	ABS-CBN	22.3
17	IMBESTIGADOR	GMA	22.0
18	XXX EXKLUSIBONG EXPLOSIBONG EXPOSE	ABS-CBN	21.9
19	LOVE STORY IN HARVARD	GMA	21.8
20	WOWOWEE	ABS-CBN	20.9
21	MEL & JOEY	GMA	20.9
22	RATED K HANDA NA BA KAYO?	ABS-CBN	20.4
23	GHOST FIGHTER	GMA	19.6
24	KAPUSO MOVIE FESTIVAL	GMA	19.4
25	ANG MAHIWAGANG BAUL	GMA	18.8

Makaaasa kayong walang patid ang aming paghahatid ng mga bagong programang inyong pananabikan, susubaybayan at pagkakatiwalaan.

GMA

SOURCE: AGB Nielsen Media Research Phils., Inc. (Arianna)
October 1 - November 30, 2006

Fairytale weddings, toxic divorces—show biz as usual

RUSHES

"JENNIFER AND VINCE MUTUALLY agreed to end their relationship but continue to be good friends today." —*Representatives* ***Stephen Huvane*** *and* ***John Pisani****, confirming that Hollywood couple Jennifer Aniston and Vince Vaughn have called it quits.*

"Now you're being presumptuous because we're not together anymore. And I don't know whose child that is until it comes out and has a blood test. You shouldn't jump to conclusions, sir." —***Eddie Murphy****, responding to a TV interviewer who asked him whether he was excited that his ex-girlfriend, former Spice Girl Melanie Brown, was pregnant.*

"I was astonished [by] what Eddie said. There is absolutely no question that Eddie is the father."—*Former Spice Girl* ***Melanie Brown****, on Eddie Murphy's remarks that he's not sure if he's the father of her unborn child.*

"I wasn't happy with the fifth one. I think this one is real satisfying for the people who like Rocky."—***Sylvester Stallone****, on the latest edition of the Rocky franchise, "Rocky Balboa."*

"Every move I make at this point has been magnified more than I expected, and I probably did take my newfound freedom a little too far. Anyway, thank God for Victoria's Secret's new underwear line!"—***Britney Spears****, in a posting on her website.*

"I am good, I am great, you know... just moving along, progressing and taking it all in stride."—***Kevin Federline****, on the demise of his marriage to Britney Spears.*

JENNIFER Aniston and Vince Vaughn

Planet celeb in 2006

LOS ANGELES—Fairytale weddings, acrimonious divorces and regular brushes with the forces of law and order. It was show business as usual for the inhabitants of planet celebrity in 2006.

As the year drew to a close, Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes put the seal on their whirlwind 18-month romance by tying the knot in a lavish ceremony held at a castle in Italy in front of a star-studded guest list.

Cruise's nuptials came barely five months after his ex-wife of 10 years Nicole Kidman said "I do" with country singer Keith Urban, with the couple getting hitched at a beachside ceremony in Sydney. Yet within months they were facing the first crisis of their marriage, Urban entering rehab at an undisclosed location in October.

KATIE Holmes, Tom Cruise and Suri

While Cruise and Kidman were celebrating their new marriages, a host of celebrities were calling in the lawyers as their unions reached the end of the road.

Ex-Beatle Paul McCartney and teen idol Britney Spears both began divorce proceedings from their respective spouses, Heather Mills and Kevin Federline.

With no pre-nuptial agreement in place, Mills could seek half of McCartney's 825-million pound ($1.57 billion) fortune although analysts have cast doubt on her chances of winning a settlement of that size.

There were no such concerns for Spears, who was reported to be protected by an "iron-clad" pre-nup that will protect her from making a big payout to Federline, from whom she filed for divorce in November.

GWYNETH PALTROW

The bombshell came two months after the birth of the couple's second child, and around two years after they were married.

Other celebrities whose marriages hit the skids this year included "Baywatch" sex symbol Pamela Anderson, who filed for divorce from musician Kid Rock in November, a full four months after their wedding.

Oscar-winning actress Reese Witherspoon's seven-year marriage to Ryan Philippe also broke down, as did the marriage of another best actress Oscar winner, Hilary Swank, who split from husband Chad Lowe.

Soul diva Whitney Houston's marriage to Bobby Brown became another victim of the "curse of reality television" when the couple announced their separation. *AFP*

MELANIE BROWN

Writing a memoir

NEW YORK—Tori Spelling, the "Beverly Hills 90210" alumna who has been spoofing her rich-kid reputation on VH1's "so noTORIous," is working on a memoir to be published in 2008 by Simon Spotlight Entertainment, a division of Simon & Schuster.

"We all think we know who Tori Spelling is because she has grown up in the public eye, but her book will give readers a chance to know the real Tori—a funny and resilient young woman with a fascinating story to tell," Jennifer Bergstrom, vice president and publisher of Simon Spotlight, said Monday in a statement.

The book is currently untitled; financial terms were not disclosed.

Spelling, 33, the daughter of television producer Aaron Spelling, who died last June, is a gossip column fixture, from her marriage to actor Dean McDermott to her reported estrangement from her mother, Candy. *AP*

Proud American

LOS ANGELES—Oscar-winning actress Gwyneth Paltrow insisted on Monday that contrary to a recent article in a European newspaper, she feels "proud to be American" and would never compare her homeland unfavorably to Britain.

PAMELA ANDERSON

In a statement issued through People magazine's website, Paltrow said she was "deeply upset" by remarks attributed to her by the Portuguese newspaper Diario de Noticias, which quoted the actress as saying: "The British are much more intelligent and civilized than the Americans."

"I never, ever would have said that," said Paltrow, 34, who is married to British rock star Chris Martin, lead singer of Coldplay, and resides part time with him and their two children in London. "What I said [was] that Europe is a much older culture, and there's a difference. I always say in America, people live to work, and in Europe, people work to live. Obviously, I need to go back to seventh-grade Spanish." Reuters

"Rocky" in museum

WASHINGTON—Rocky Balboa, Hollywood's favorite underdog boxer, claimed his place in history Tuesday as his creator— Sylvester Stallone—donated props from the "Rocky" films to the National Museum of American History.

SYLVESTER STALLONE

Stallone dedicated his gift to "all the Rockys of the world," saying the story of the working-class boxer had resonated with people because it carried a message of hope.

He gave the Smithsonian museum a red-and-gold boxing robe from the first film "Rocky," emblazoned with the words "The Italian Stallion" on the back, as well as his character's signature black hat and red boxing gloves from "Rocky II" and a pair of star-spangled boxing trunks and white boxing shoes from "Rocky III." The props will be displayed in the "Treasures of American History" exhibition. *AFP*

BRAD Pitt and Angelina Jolie

Iconic dress sold

LONDON—The black Givenchy dress worn by Audrey Hepburn in the film "Breakfast at Tiffany's" sold at auction Tuesday for 410,000 pounds ($807,000).

The price, paid by a telephone bidder, was almost six times the highest pre-sale estimate.

AUDREY HEPBURN

The iconic garment had been expected to fetch between 50,000 and 70,000 pounds ($98,000 and $138,000) as part of a sale of film and television memorabilia at Christie's auction house in London.

Proceeds from the sale will go to the charity City of Joy Aid, which helps India's poor. The gown's owners — the founders of City of Joy Aid—received it as a gift from designer Hubert de Givenchy. *AP*

Too busy to shave

LOS ANGELES—Some of Hollywood's most successful women share an unexpected byproduct of success—hairy armpits.

That was one of the lighter messages brought home on Tuesday at a star-studded breakfast, hosted by the Hollywood Reporter in conjunction with the publication of its 15th annual Women In Entertainment Power 100 list.

"It's a miracle I'm here," said keynote speaker Maria Bello, star of "World Trade Center," in describing her hectic morning as a multi-tasking mom during which she finally got around to "shaving two-week old growth" under her arms.

"I still have two-week old growth," quipped fellow "World Trade Center" star Maggie Gyllenhaal, another keynote speaker who, like Bello, earned accolades for her role in the Oliver Stone-directed drama about the Sept. 11 attacks. *Reuters*

Officially over

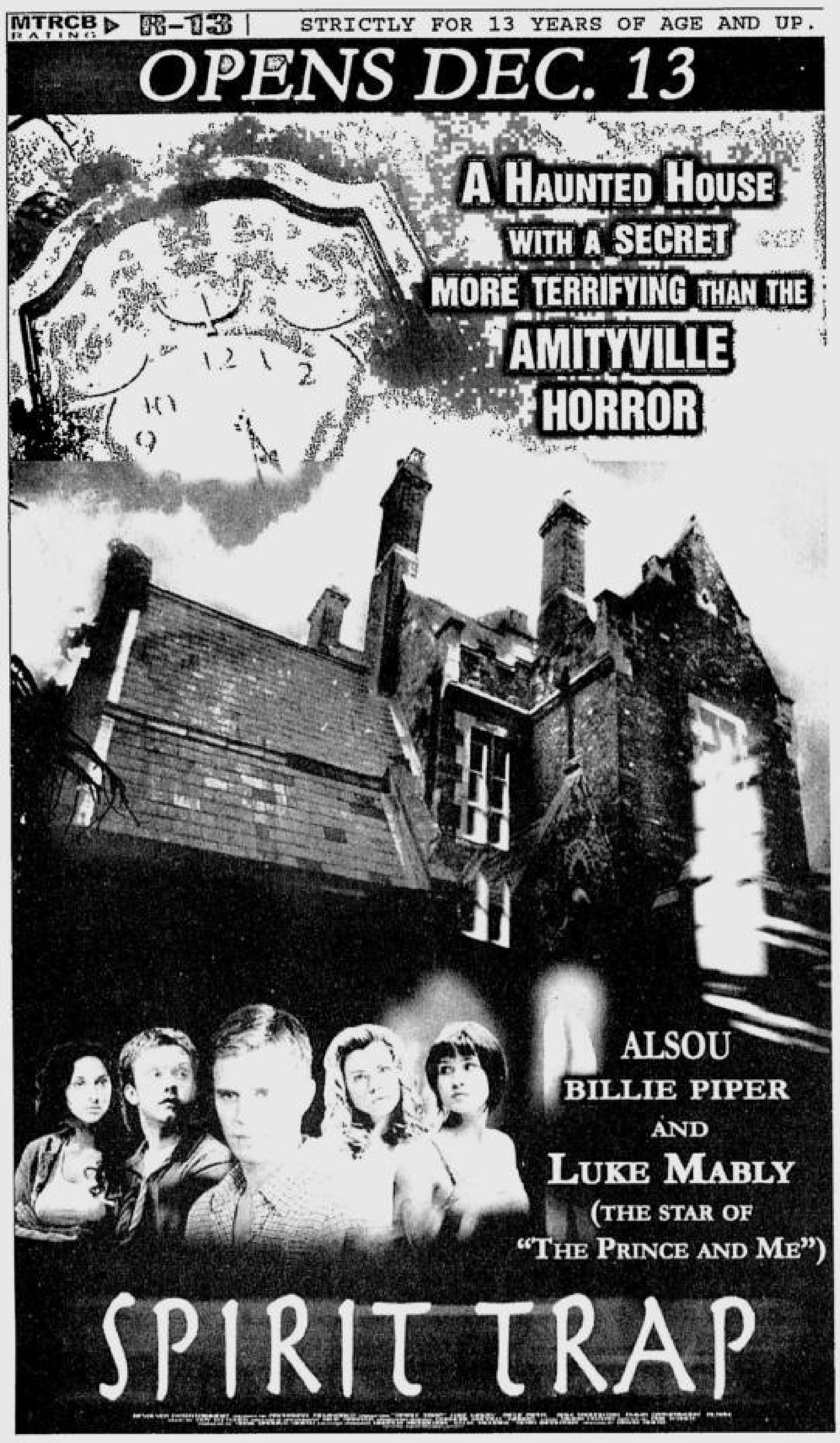
LOS ANGELES—It's officially over for "Vaughniston," the unwieldy appellation given to the romance between actors Vince Vaughn and Jennifer Aniston. People magazine reported on its Web site on Tuesday that the two had split after over a year together, citing representatives for the pair. Reuters

Judy Garland auction

LOS ANGELES—The first known recordings by Judy Garland—made when she was just 12 years old and never heard in public—are expected to fetch about $40,000 when they go up for auction next week. The so-called "Lost Judy Recordings" consist of two March 1935 acetate discs created in a Hollywood recording studio when Judy Garland sang as her mother accompanied her on the piano. *Reuters*

Upstaged by newcomer

NEW YORK—The movie adaptation of the famed Broadway musical "Dreamgirls" stars Oscar-winning actor Jamie Foxx, chart-topping singer Beyonce Knowles and long-time favorite Eddie Murphy. But in true show business tradition, Jennifer Hudson, an overweight unknown more used to failure than success—and a finalist on "American Idol" batch 2004. *Reuters*



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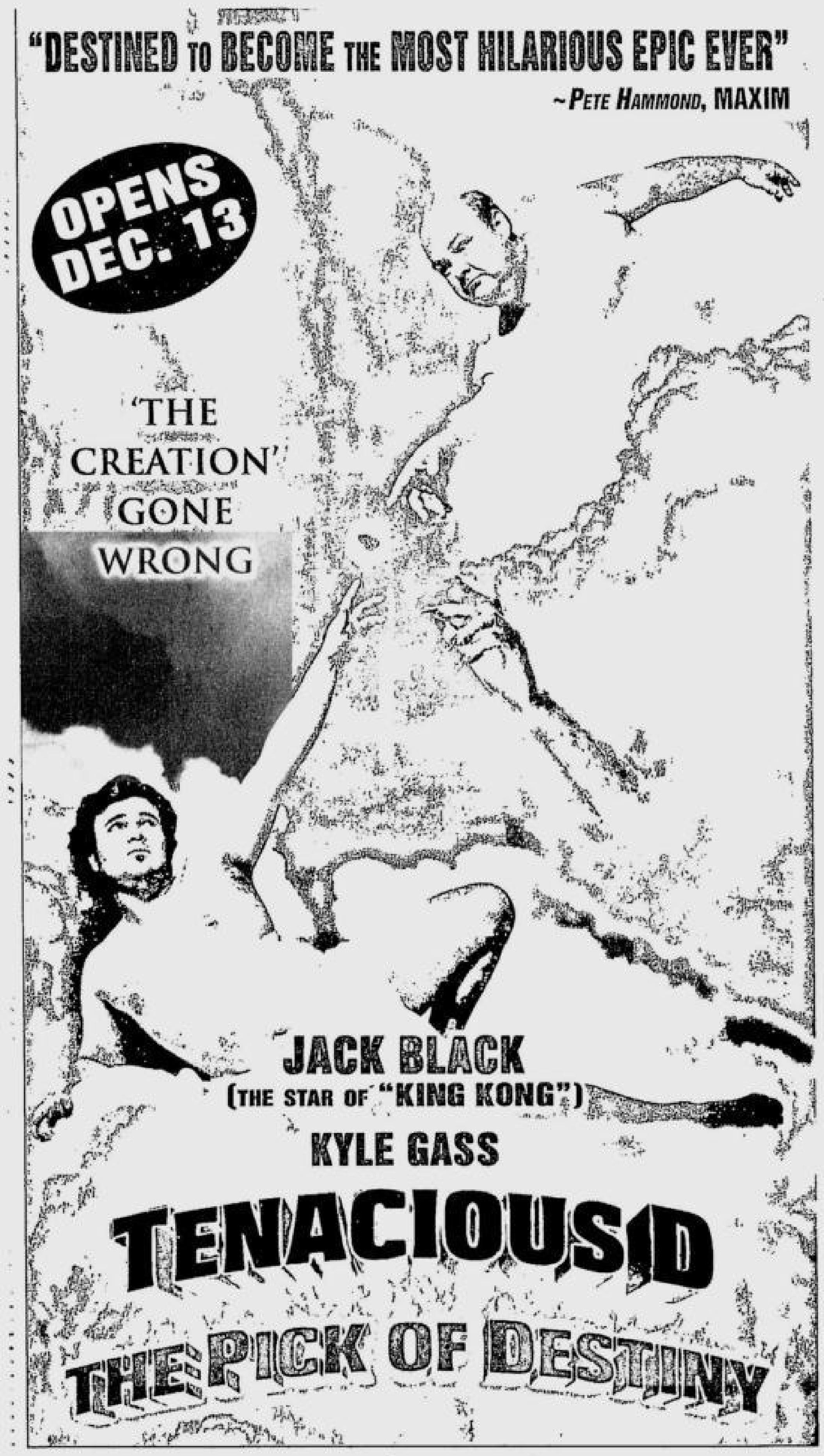

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~PETE HAMMOND, MAXIM
OPENS DEC. 13
'THE CREATION' GONE WRONG
JACK BLACK
(THE STAR OF "KING KONG")
KYLE GASS
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THE PICK OF DESTINY

Letterman CBS deal extended

DAVID LETTERMAN

NEW YORK—LATE-NIGHT TV COMEDIAN David Letterman extended his contract with the CBS network on Monday in a deal that will keep him hosting the network's "Late Show" through the fall of 2010, a year past the retirement of his NBC rival Jay Leno.

"I'm thrilled to be continuing on at CBS," Letterman, 59, said in a statement.

Letterman, who began his network TV career on NBC, marked his 13th year in "Late Show" on Aug. 30 this year and will celebrate 25 years in late-night comedy this February.

The CBS "Late Show with David Letterman," averaging 4.3 million viewers per show this season, has generally ranked second in the late-night TV ratings wars behind NBC's rival program "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno."

Leno draws an audience of 5.7 million.

Letterman hosted his original show, "Late Night," on NBC in the time slot following "The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson" and was long considered a likely successor to Carson.

But when Carson retired in 1992 after nearly 30 years on "The Tonight Show," he was replaced by Leno. The following year, Letterman jumped to CBS in the flagship 11:30 p.m. time slot opposite Leno, setting up one of the most storied rivalries on US television. *Reuters*

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MARK LAPID
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KATRINA "HOPIA" LEGASPI NIKKI BAGAPORO KATHRYN BERNARDO JOHN VLADIMIR MANALO
CYRUSS MORNING CO MILES OCAMPO IGGY BOY FLORES BASTY ALCANZES
BALDO MARRO JUN TAMAYO LITO CAMO EDWIN "KIKO" ORTEGA DODOY ONGLEO FRED FERRAZ
TOTO NATIVIDAD D BOY TROPEO TONY Y. REYES ELY MATAWARAN LORRIE MATABA CESAR CARREON JR.
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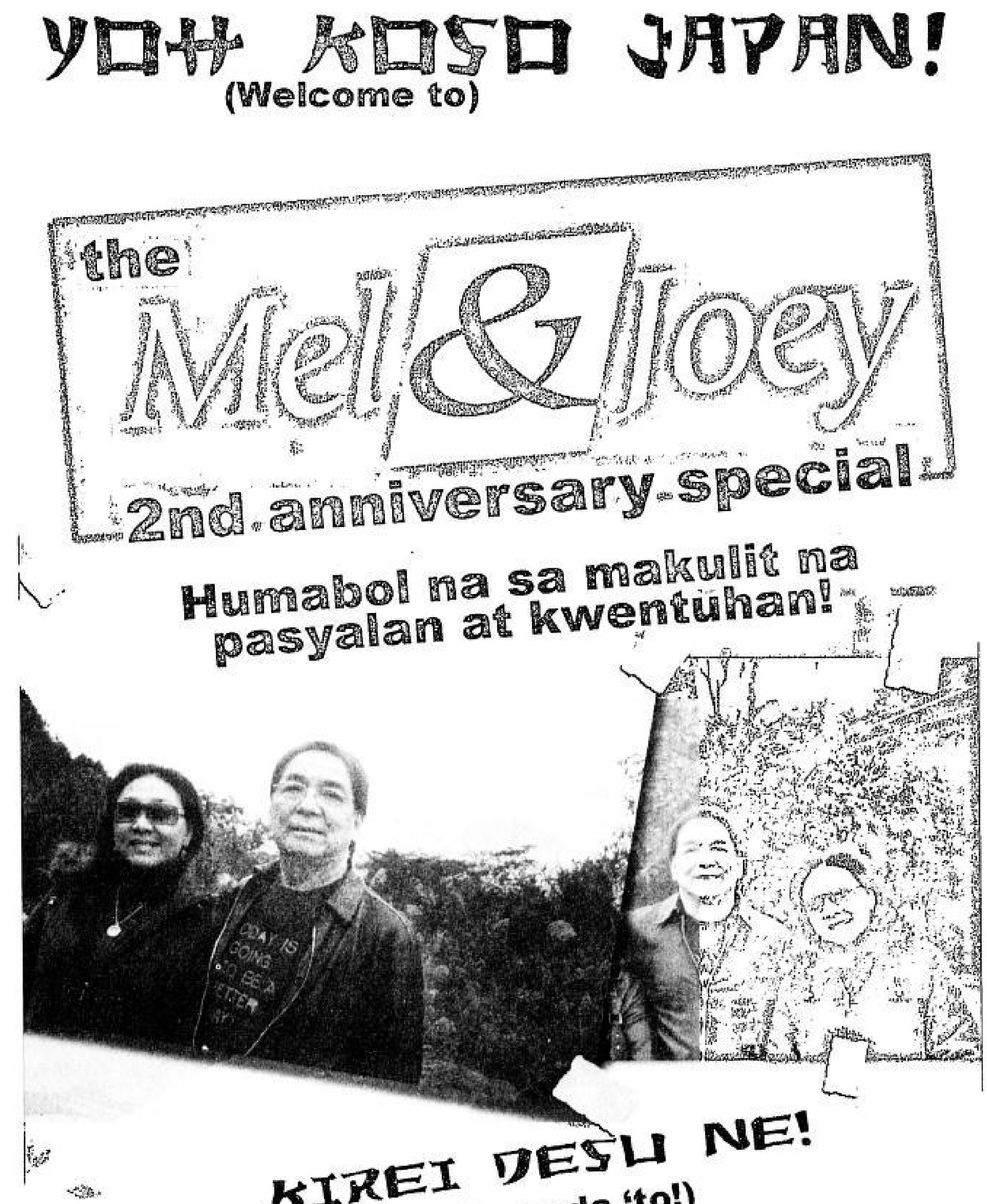
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1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
2 HAPPY FEET
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 KAMA SUTRA 3
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
4 THE NATIVITY STORY
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
5 A GOOD YEAR
12.00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
7 REYNA
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
8 BORAT
1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50
9 DECK THE HALLS
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10 THE RETURN
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1 KAMA SUTRA 3
2 A GOOD YEAR
3 REYNA
4 HAPPY FEET

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2 FEAST
3 BORAT
4 REYNA

DASMARIÑAS [illegible]

1 DECK THE HALLS
2 ANG PAMANA:THE INHERITANCE
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2 KALELDO
3 REYNA
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2 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
3 CASINO ROYALE
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6 BOA

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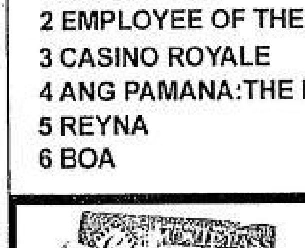
4 REYNA



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Cruise a surprise guest at 'Devil Wears Prada' party

From page L2

closed that he no longer does party deejay work but he is now concentrating on providing lights at Hollywood parties and other events. Brian decked the Rothman house and its sprawling grounds with thousands of miniature lights which added to the festive ambience, especially in the backyard where there were sofas and bunches of roses (by his friend, florist **Kevin Lee**) scattered all over.

Father and son

Speaking of parties (the holidays are indeed here), among the events we attended last weekend in New York was a party for **Will Smith**'s "The Pursuit of Happyness" (yes, the misspelling is intentional). As the event peaked, a man knelt playfully to demonstrate his "reverence" for the film's star.

No, the man did not kneel before Will but for the actor's son, **Jaden Christopher Syre Smith**, 8, who gives a star-making performance in "The Pursuit of Happyness." Proud father Will explained to Jaden what "genuflect" means, reminding him that it's also what people do in churches. Papa Will kneeled, too, to get his point across.

Father and son play, well, father and son in the movie adaptation of **Chris Gardner**'s novel of the same name which chronicles his true-to-life journey as a homeless man with a son to take care of in San Francisco. Columbia Pictures threw a party at the Four Seasons restaurant last weekend to celebrate the film, which was directed by Italian **Gabriele Muccino**, and its award nomination-worthy performances.

"Would you like a martini?" a lady publicist joked to Jaden when he came in ahead of his famous parents (mother, of course, is actress **Jada Pinkett Smith**). The boy, absolutely handsomer than his dad (sorry, Will), was nattily dressed in a coat and tie, just like when we interviewed him in his very first press con earlier in LA.

"Your man has his own table with his own name on it," I told Will when he came in from a special screening of the film. He broke into a hearty laughter. "He wants to do comedy," a beaming Jada told me as Jaden made martial arts moves beside us. "He said, no more heavy stuff." Jaden will make many moviegoers cry when they see him and his dad struggle with homelessness. A scene where they seek refuge and sleep in a subway bathroom is bound to bring out Kleenex tissues.

Although we know that **Thandie Newton** (who plays a fictionalized version of the mother of Jaden's character) was born in England, it was still surprising to hear her speak with a British accent. She has been completely believable as an American in this movie and in the Oscar-winning "Crash." The Cambridge-educated actress said she is paired with **Eddie Murphy** in the coming comedy, "Norbit."

Chris Gardner, whose life from a homeless man to a millionaire stockbroker started this all, stood regal and dapper in the room. Our favorite anecdote from him was that when he was a little tentative about Will playing him, his daughter said, "Dad, if Will can play Ali, he can play you."

> Jaden will make moviegoers cry when they see him and dad Will Smith struggle in the movie

MERYL Streep AFP

At his own table, Jaden and another boy nonchalantly played with their respective video games as the guests mingled: Japanese actress and a sensation in "Babel," **Rinko Kikuchi**, turned heads with her new blonde hair color and **Karl Lagerfeld** for Chanel dress (we were surprised to hear from her that "Babel" has not yet been shown in Japan); Broadway star **Bernadette Peters**; **Eva Mendes** and her trademark mole on the left cheek; **Michael Mann**, one of our favorite filmmakers; **Terrence Howard** and his son, who is also an actor (someday this boy and Jaden will rule Hollywood); and actor **Kyle MacLachlan.**

A bartender, who is a dead ringer for **Tom Hanks**, quipped that he should be ordering drinks, not making them as we spoke. **Michael Mann** and Oscar-winning scriptwriter **Akiva Goldsman** ("A Beautiful Mind"), who are co-producing Will's next film, closed the bar.

THANDIE NEWTON REUTERS

Rated 'A'

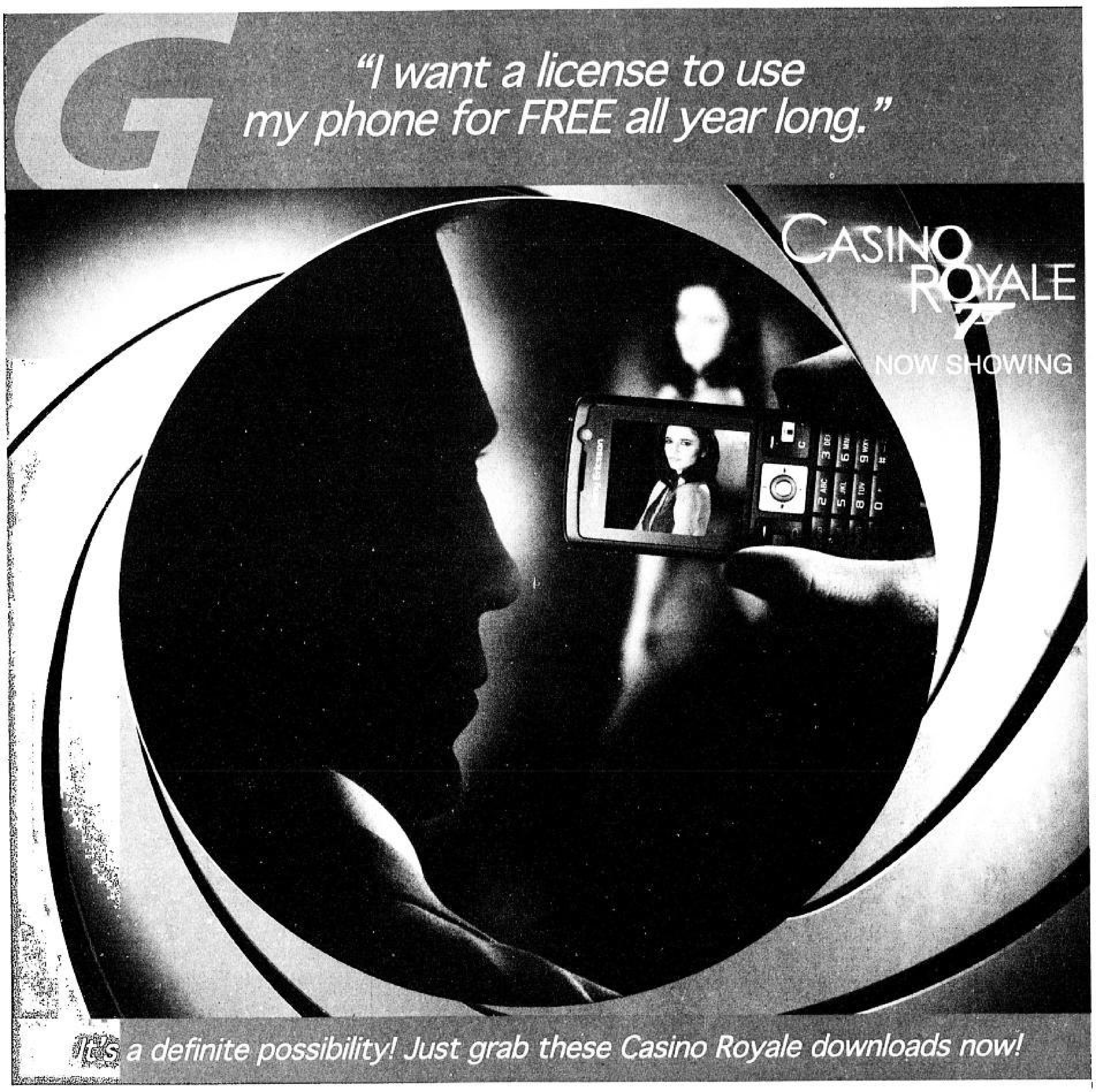
A footnote in this awards season: Kudos to **Tony Gloria** and Unitel for the critical success of "Inang Yaya," which earned for them their fourth consecutive A rating from the Cinema Evaluation Board (following "Crying Ladies," "Santa Santita" and "La Visa Loca"). There was no Philippine entry in the Oscars' Best Foreign Language film race last year so we can say this is Unitel's second consecutive year with "The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros," after "Crying Ladies" two years ago.

And since Unitel is the Philippine distributor for "Cavite," it's also the film outfit's consecutive year at the Independent Spirit Awards, with the nomination of "Maximo" for Best Foreign Language Film. In that category of five nominees (a director's award), two of the films don't have distributors yet, but Unitel's "Maximo" is competing against Sony Classics' "The Lives of Others" and The Weinstein Company's "Days of Glory." It's heartening to see that Philippine Cinema can now compete against the American indie's big guns! It would be great if our filmmakers and distributors can get into this habit more often.

TERRENCE Howard and son Hunter AP

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

QUEEN Latifah arrives at the salute to Will Smith. AP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Janitorial Services (ITB 006-06)	P 3,845,905.90	Dec. 28, 2006 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Jan. 10, 2007 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	P 3,500.00
Drivers (ITB 007-06)	P 511,347.84	Dec. 28, 2006 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.	Jan. 10, 2007 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.	P 500.00
Drinking Water with H&C Dispenser (ITB 008-06)	P 142,032.00	Dec. 28, 2006 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Jan. 10, 2007 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.	P 150.00

The Eligibility and Bid Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, care/of **ARTURO N. DELA CRUZ, JR.,** 4th Floor Blas F. Ople Bldg., Ortigas corner EDSA, Mandaluyong City, T: (02) 7277776; F: (02) 7268919; email: **bac.poea@yahoo.com**, after payment for the Eligibility and Bid Documents. Only bidders who have purchased the Eligibility and Bid documents shall be eligible to attend in the Pre-Bid Conference and participate in the Bidding process.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation-A (IRR-A) as amended.

The schedule of BAC activities are as follows:

For Security Services

BAC Activities	*Schedule*
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility and to Bid	December 11, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibity and Bid Documents	December 11, 2006
3. Pre-bid Conference	December 28, 2006, 10 a.m.
4. Receipt and Opening of Eligibility and Bid Documents	January 10, 2007, 10 a.m.

For Janitorial Services

BAC Activities	*Schedule*
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility and to Bid	December 11, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility and Bid Documents	December 11, 2006
3. Pre-bid Conference	December 28, 2006, 1 p.m.
4. Receipt and Opening of Eligibility and Bid Documents	January 10, 2007, 1 p.m.

For Service Contractors (Drivers)

BAC Activities	*Schedule*
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility and to Bid	December 11, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility and Bid Documents	December 11, 2006
3. Pre-bid Conference	December 28, 2006, 2 p.m.
4. Receipt and Opening of Eligibility and Bid Documents	January 10, 2007, 2 p.m.

For Water Supply with H&C Dispenser

BAC Activities	*Schedule*
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility and to Bid	December 11, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility and Bid Documents	December 11, 2006
3. Pre-bid Conference	December 28, 2006, 1 p.m.
4. Receipt and Opening of Eligibility and Bid Documents	January 10, 2007, 3 p.m.

The POEA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) **ATTY. VIVECA C. CATALIG**
BAC CHAIRPERSON

(PDI – December 10 & 17, 2006)

PETRON

Needs

SERVICE STATION DEALERS

for

Locations	Required Cash Capital	Deadline for Submission of Application
1. Bel Air, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	P6.0 M	12/31/06
2. Pastor Ave., Bo. Cuta, Batangas City, Batangas	P5.0 M	12/31/06
3. Tagpuan sa Villa Escudero, Maharlika Hway, Bgy. Lalig, Tiaong, Quezon	P6.0 M	12/31/06
4. Magsaysay cor Almendras St. Sorsogon City, Sorsogon	P5.0 M	12/31/06
5. Solano, Nueva Vizcaya	P5.0 M	12/31/06

Note: Above capital requirement needed for actual station operation; No up-front money is given to Petron.

Only applicants who can meet the following "MUST" requirements need apply:

a. Must be able to put up required capitalization;
b. Must be able to operate and run the station on full time basis;
c. Must not be an existing dealer of any other oil company.

Preference shall be given to applicants residing near the station being applied for. Previous applicants need not apply.

Please secure your application forms from Luzon Reseller, Petron Corporation, Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila c/o Ms. Rosette P. Sanchez at tel. 563-8521 Loc. 282. Submit application forms not later than the deadline specified for each location.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
ADVANCED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE
ASTI Bldg., Technology Park Complex, C.P. Garcia Ave., U.P. Campus,
Diliman 1101 Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. (632) 426-97-64, 426-36-94 Fax: (632) 426-97-56

INVITATION TO APPLY ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI), Department of Science and Technology invites bona fide suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following item:

20 UNITS LAPTOP COMPUTERS

The Bid documents shall be available at the ASTI Property Section from December 18-22, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of P1,000.00

Eligibility documents, technical and financial proposals in three envelopes must be submitted at the ASTI-BAC Secretariat, ASTI Bldg. C.P. Garcia Ave., U.P. Diliman, Quezon City not later than 10:00 a.m. on December 28, 2006 and shall be opened at the Conference Room, Ground Floor ASTI Bldg., C.P. Garcia Ave., U.P. Diliman, Quezon City, on the same date in the presence of the participating bidders.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat at Tel. No. 426-3694, 4269755 and 9258598

ASTI-BAC reserves the right to waive any formality in the response to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. ASTI-BAC further reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JOSE ERIC S. MAGLANQUE**
Chairman

(PDI - Dec. 10, 2006)

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY HEALTH
Implemented by
Chemonics International Inc.

Request for Submission of Grant Applications

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Health Project (PRISM) is seeking applications for a grant award intended for

Provision of Technical Assistance to Develop Private Practice Midwives' Facilities into PhilHealth-Accredited Birthing Homes
RFA 2006-03-01

PRISM is a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under USAID Contract Number 492-C-00-04-00036-00 and implemented by Chemonics International Incorporated.

Grant funding of up to total US$ 400,000 or PHP 20M will be provided to 3 successful grant applications in accordance with standard USAID policies.

This solicitation is open to Philippine-based and SEC-registered institutions such as health training institutions, business consultancy organizations and business development institutions, or consortia of these institutions, that have technical capacities necessary for the scope of work. Specific eligibility requirements are indicated in the Request for Applications (RFA) document.

The solicitation document will be released on **Monday, 4 December 2006**. Applicants interested in getting the full details of this solicitation can request for copies of the full RFA document from grants@prism.org.ph. Likewise, the RFA can be downloaded in PDF format from http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/PRISMGrants/. The closing date for the submission of application is **5:00pm, 10 January 2007**.

Grant Applicants' Conferences will be held at the following PRISM offices: **3 January 2007,** 2 pm at the PRISM Cebu office Gold Zeal, 2F Cebu Holdings Center, Cebu Business Park, Cardinal Rosales Ave., Cebu City; **4 January 2007,** 2pm at the PRISM Davao office 4/F Pryce Tower, Pryce Business Park, J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City; **5 January 2007** at 2pm at the PRISM Manila office 23/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

For further details, please contact Cristina Avila CAvila@prism.org.ph or Agnes Payson APayson@prism.org.ph.

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel Nos. (632) 929-66-26 to 29, (632) 929-62-52
929-66-20, 929-66-33 to 35
929-70-41 to 43

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Land Administration and Management Project

PROVISION OF CADASTRAL SURVEY WORKS IN LEYTE PROVINCE
Loan Number 7298-PH

The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a Loan from World Bank toward the cost of land administration and management project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the contract for Provision of Cadastral Survey Works in the Municipality of Palompon, Province of Leyte.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resource (DENR) – Region VIII, an agency of the Republic of the Philippines, now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for provision of *Cadastral Survey Work in selected barangays in the Municipality of Palompon Leyte, Project ID No. DENR-R8-1-01-WB-NCB-2006.*

Module No.	No. of Barangays	Estimated No. of Lots	Estimated Area in Hectares	Duration (calendar days)
1	6	730	438	210

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Subject to exceptions stated in this Bidding Documents, only bids from Bidders who pass an eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification. The ABC is *One Million Pesos (PHP 1,000,000.00).*

The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Bidders as provided in the Instructions to Bidders.

a. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the *Land Administration and Management Project – Provincial Project Implementation Office (LAMP-PPIO)* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below:

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Two Thousand Pesos Only (PHP2,000.00).* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting *December 11 until January 12, 2007 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM only.*

b. The *DENR VIII- Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on *January 9, 2007 at 2:00 PM* at the *DENR LAMP PPIO Conference Room, OSS Bldg., Candahug, Palo, Leyte.*

c. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before *1:00PM of January 15, 2007.* Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of *Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit* in an amount equivalent to 1½% of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (PhP 15,000.00) of the ABC. Bid opening shall be on *January 15, 2007 at exactly 2:00 PM at the LAMP PPIO Conference Room, OSS Bldg., Candahug, Palo, Leyte.*

d. Completion of the Works is required by September 30, 2007.

e. The *DENR Region VIII BAC* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources –
LAMP Provincial Project Implementation Office
OSS Bldg., Candahug, Palo, Leyte
Tel/Fax. 053 3238842
Visit: www.denr-lamp.org

(Sgd.) **WINSTON N. SOLITE**
Signature of the BAC Chairperson or Authorized
Representive of the BAC Chairman

(PDI - Dec. 10, 2006)

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- Ayala Alabang house & lot, floor area = 350 sq.m. lot area = 558 sq.m. selling price @ P14M

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(PDI - December 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2006)

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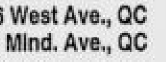

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VANS 9226702 9214535

CARS FOR RENT

★Cheap Van 9330311★

CAR LOAN

1% AUTOLOAN 788-0361

1% Car Lending 6560140 United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% EASY CARLOAN 8997759

CAR LOAN

1% Sangla ur Car 5344441

1% w/out taking car 5315577

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7723610/12

2% w/out taking car 7262780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

Sound Equipment, Tables & Chairs, Sofas •Call 725-7058

HEAVY EQUIPMENT

DIE CUTTING MACHINE 18x33 MINERVA 15x19 running loud Call 476-2740

PETS

COCKATIEL Tame Uniq Pet Gr8t Gft ok 4 Condo 2595088

PCCI
25th FCI & 369th PCCI
ALL-BREEDS DOG SHOW
THE BLOCK SM CITY
NORTH EDSA
DECEMBER 9 & 10, 2006
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
KAYEFINLAYSON (NZ)
AGNES G. KERTES
(ISRAEL)
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DIE CUTTING MACHINE
18x33 MINERVA 15x19
running loud 476-2710

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GoldCrest Bldg., Glorietta - 2
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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER COURSE 3026842 STUDY NOW PAY LATER 09177924104 / 09228148322

AUCTION SALE

Filipinas Pawnshop Malanday, Corp. #505 Mc Arthur Hi-Way, Malanday Val. City, All Unredeemed Pledges of June & July 2006, Will be Auctined on Dec. 21, 2006, 2:30p.m. Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer.
(PDI Dec. 03, 2006)

AUCTION SALE

Marilao-Filipinas Pawnshop, M & R Bldg., Tabing-llog Marilao, Bulacan. All Unredeemed Pledges of JUN 2006 willl be Auctioned on DEC. 21 8:00am.Lanuza & Sons Auctioneer.
(PDI- DEC. 03, 2006)

Meycauayan-Filipinas Pawnshop,Aliw Complex, Calvario,Meyc,Bulacan. All Unredeemed Pledges of JUN. 2006 willl be Auctioned on DEC. 21, 10:00am. Lanuza & Sons Autioneer.
(PDI- DEC.03, 2006)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE ALMANZOR E. TUBIG WAS EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG HIS HEIRS AS PER DOC NO. 230, PAGE NO. 47, BOOK NO. 13, SERIES OF 2006 OF NOTARY PUBLIC CASIANO ATUEL JR. OF PATEROS M. MLA.
(PDI- DEC. 3, 10, & 17, 2006)

Notice is given that the estate of late spouses RUFO LIMON, SR and LEONILA R. LIMON was extrajudicially settled and partitioned among the heirs as per Doc #86; Page #18; Book IV; Series of 2006 before Notary Public Eden Z. Punsalan of Manila.
(PDI - Dec. 3, 10 & 17, 2006)

Notice is given that the estate of the late ALFREDO O. CARILLO was extrajudicially settled among his heirs before Notary Public Atty. Daniel Rafael Penuela of Bacolod City, Per Doc#75 Page#15 Book#XII Series of 2006.
(PDI- Nov. 26, Dec. 3 & 10, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late EDMUNDO A. MOLINA, who died last March 29, 2005 was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc # 159, Page #32, Book # 1, Series of 2006. Before a Notary Public Atty Jane M. Lacandazo
PDI-Nov 26, Dec 3&10, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JOSE PULIDO CRUZ JR. has been extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc#189; Page # 39; Book# 111; Series 2006 by Notary Public EULGENCIO DEL CASTILLO JR.
(PDI Dec. 10,17,24,2006)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE MANUEL T. TORRE HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HIS HEIRS AS PER DOC. # 19; PAGE # 47; BOOK # I; SERIES OF 2006 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. FE H. PADILLA OF PASAY CITY
PDI-DEC 10 17 & 24. 2006

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that Aboitiz Equity Ventures Stock Certificate No. 71992 with 800 shares under the name of Maria Ocampo was lost. If no contest received new certificate will be issued.
PDI-Nov 26, Dec 3 & 10, 2006

Notice is hereby given that Camp John Hay Golf Club Stock Cert. #00165 issued to Rogelio C. Damasco was lost.If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued.
PDI- Dec.10, 17 & 24, 2006

Notice is hereby given that the Filinvest Land Inc. Stock Cert. Nos. 00055831-5000shs; 00091733-3750shs; 121270-9375shs; 000162633-23506shs; 00171356-13007shs & ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. Stock Cert Nos. 69931A-500shs; 103677A-1500shs; 134353A-1500shs issued to Marisa Sze have been reported lost. If no contest received new certificates will new issued.
PDI-Dec.10, 17 & 24, 2006

Notice is hereby given that Camp John Hay Golf Club Stock Cert. #00167 issued to Rogelio C. Damasco was lost.If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued.
PDI- Dec.10, 17 & 24, 2006

Notice is hereby given that Camp John Hay Golf Club Stock Cert. #00143 issued to ILDEFONSO J. DAYA was lost.If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued.
PDI- Dec.10, 17 & 24, 2006

Notice of loss of PCIBANK Stock Cert. Nos.12944 w/ 58shares & 18524 w/46shares issued to JOSEFA O. OXALES. If no contest received, new certificates will be issued. (PDI-Nov. 26 & Dec. 3 & 10, 2006)

PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONAL RECEIPTS, 20481-20500, ARE DECLARED INVALID AND NON-BINDING TO CITIFINANCIAL. (PDI - DEC. 3 & 10, 2006)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Department of Social Welfare and Development

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Five (5) Units Utility Vehicles

[ITB No. GOP/06-DSWD-030]

1. The *Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)*, through the Excess Income of GASSG Capital Outlay Fund and Administrative Service Capital Outlay Fund intends to apply the sum of *Four Million Pesos (Php 4,000,000.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for "Supply and Delivery of Five (5) Units Utility Vehicles" with ITB No. GOP/06-DSWD-030 broken down in the following lots:

Lot No.	Item	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	1 Unit Utility Vehicle	One Million Pesos (Php 1,000,000.00)
2	4 Units Utility Vehicle	Three Million Pesos (Php 3,000,000.00)

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The *Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of five (5) units utility vehicles. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *DSWD BAC Secretariat* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos *(Php 1,000.00)* starting 27 November 2006. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *DSWD* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *5 December 2006 at 1:30 p.m.* at *the 2nd Floor Administrative Conference Room (Old Building).*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *11:00 a.m. on 19 December 2006*. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of *cash, manager's check or cashier's check* and in the amount of *Forty Thousand Pesos only (P40, 000.00)*. Combination of two (2) or more of any of the foregoing forms is not allowed. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on *19 December 2006* at *11:00 AM* at *the DSWD Central Office 2nd Floor, Old Building, Administraive Conference Room* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. DSWD shall award the contract on per lot basis.
10. The *Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

THE BAC CHAIRPERSON
DSWD Bids and Awards Committee
c/o BAC Secretariat
2nd Floor, DSWD Old Building,
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Quezon City
Telefax no.: 951-7116 ; Trunkline No. 931-8101 Local 217

(SGD) FLORITA R. VILLAR
Assistant Secretary for PPG & BAC Chairperson

(PDI–Nov. 29 & Dec. 10, 2006)

City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA** invites PhilGEPS registered suppliers/manufacturers/contractors to apply for the following items:

Name of Projects	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date / Time		Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
1 Job Order: Thermoplastic Markings	P 2,999,988.00	Dec 15, 2006 10:00 AM	Dec 27, 2006 10:00 AM	P 1,000.00
2. Construction/Rehabilitation of Slaughterhouse in San Roque	P11,751,590.68	Jan. 8, 2007 1:00 PM	Jan 22, 2007 10:00 AM	P4,000.00

The Bid documents shall be available at the City Mayor's Office, Procurement, Acquisition and Awards Division, City Hall, Zamboanga City starting **December 11 to 22, 2006** (Item No. 1) and **December 20, 2006 to Jan. 4, 2007** (Item No. 2) upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

For Item No. 2. The last day of the submission of the accomplished eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on **December 19, 2006**; 12:00 Noon in the Procurement, Acquisition and Awards Office, City Hall, Zamboanga City.

The Pre-Bid conference shall be held at **City Engineer's Office, Conference Hall, City Hall, Zamboanga City.**

The Bidder shall drop and enclose the original of the Technical Proposal in one sealed envelope; whereas, the original of the Financial Proposal shall be enclosed in another sealed envelope. Both envelopes shall then be placed in another single envelope in the bid box located at the above-mentioned address.

For more information, please call the Procurement Acquisition and Awards Division at Telephone No. [062] 992-7763.

The **CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) DR. MARIO D. ARRIOLA
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Dec. 10, 2006)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW consign Ideal 4 bazar tiange btque 09178830002

Own Motorcycle Spare Parts Bzness Start Now call Tel-8009169 CP 09209121105

BUSINESS FOR SALE

EXISTING LAUNDRY SHOP LAS PINAS 09178267669

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

3D ARCHITECT-DESIGNERS
GRAPHIC DESIGNERS
Outsource Design Company seeking ENTHUSIASTIC & DRIVEN Individuals. ATTRACTIVE SALARIES & BONUS INCENTIVES. Email your resume at arch.draftpick@gmail.com

BARBER & MANICURIST
CALL 09287284455 DOMESTIC RD

Cook 6, Yaya 4, Maid 3,5 Linis 3T, M'wife 12T 851-0250 Laba

DEP ED MAKATI VACANCY
Item No. OSEC - DECS B
TCHR - 35250

LAWYER
Male, not more than 40 years old. Must work full-time. mUst have experience in Labor Case, Land Disputes, Corporate Cases 9318950/52

CAREGIVER 5280747

PHARMACIST, FEMALE PLS CALL /TEXT 8368160/09219683685 OR SEND RESUME TO glominmar@yahoo.com

F Veterinarian 824-7157

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MONDAY to SATURDAY, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm or 4:00 pm
Sunday, 2:00 pm
Dec. 14 (Thursday), 2:30 pm
2/F MCDONALD'S ALIMALL
Araneta Center, Cubao, Q.C.
Interested: Call OGEE 433-1079, 9:00 am to 12 noon
or text ATTEND_DATE_VENUE_NAME
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One-Day Mega Jobs Fair

THE PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF SERVICE Exporters, Inc. (PASEI), – the biggest single landbased association in the overseas employment industry in the Philippines – and the OFW Family Club had jointly organized a 1-Day Overseas Employment Jobs Fair this Dec. 10, (Sunday), 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Jobs Fair activities will be held at the LTO Compound, Alabang-Zapote Road, Las Piñas City near Perpetual Help Hospital.

PASEI is composed of over 700 recruitment agencies that are all licensed by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and authorized by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) to recruit and deploy Filipino workers abroad.

"No Application Fee, No Entrance Fee, No Registration Fee" will be charged. Thousand of overseas jobs like medical staff and hospital personnel, construction workers, I.T. professionals, maintenance workers, domestic helpers, skilled and technical workers, service workers, hotel workers, etc. are needed for overseas jobs and will be available from POEA licensed recruitment agency members of the Philippine Association of Service Exporters, Inc. (PASEI). Bring plenty copies of your resumé, 2x2 colored pictures, school credentials, training and employment certificates, NBI clearance and passport (if available).

Everybody is welcome !!! To today's one-day Mega Jobs Fair, Dec. 10, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the LTO Compound, Alabang-Zapote Road, Las Piñas City.

CAREER PLANNERS

LAST YEAR'S PASEI-OFW FAMILY CLUB MEGA JOBS FAIR ATTENDEES AT THE PTTC, Roxas Blvd. cor. Buendia Extn., Pasay City (inside CCP Complex) applying for overseas jobs. This year's Jobs Fair will be held today, December 10, 2006 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at the LTO Compound, Alabang – Zapote Road, Las Piñas City near Perpetual Help Hospital.

Calling all UST medicine class of 1957

YOU ARE ALL cordially invited to the 49th Anniversary and Reunion at the Palm Country Club, Filinvest, Alabang today, December 10, 2006 (Sunday) from 5:00 p.m. to 12 midnight.

Everyone is enjoined to attend as plans for the 50th Golden Anniversary will be discussed. Attire is smart casual.

For details, please call:Dr. Charito Felipe at 7243244; and Dr. Ched Oliver at 8426549.

Republic of the Philippines

HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL FOR NEGOTIATED SALE

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) is inviting interested parties to submit proposals and letters of intent to negotiate for the disposition of the property described below thru outright sale, joint venture, lease, or other similar or variant schemes:

LOCATION of the PROPERTY	DESCRIPTION	No. of Lots	Area (in sqm.)
IMPERIAL SOUTH MEADOWS SUBDIVISION Brgy. San Vicente, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	Saleable Lots:		
	• With Improvements :	195	
	• Vacant :	769	
		964	62,747
	Rawland	12	52,819
	Total	976	115,566

1. The disposition and sale of the property shall be on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis and may involve the entire property or only a portion of it;
2. For outright sale proposals, terms of payment may be in cash or installment;
3. Offers for joint venture should indicate the proposed terms, sharing scheme, duration of the project and schedule of projected sales;
4. Offers for lease must indicate the proposed terms of lease including a provision for escalation of lease rates; and
5. For other similar or variant schemes, the proposed terms of sale must be indicated.

HGC reserves the right to require additional information as it deems necessary to better understand and evaluate the offer(s).

Activities	Date/Time
Submission of Letters of Intent & Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	December 11, 2006 to January 3, 2007
Pre-negotiation Conference	January 3, 2006 / 2:00 pm
Submission of Eligibility Requirements & Financial Proposal/Offer	December 12, 2006 to January 5, 2007 / 5:00 pm

Interested parties are encouraged to inspect the property before tendering their offers.

Details pertaining to the property as well as the guidelines for the negotiation can be obtained from the HGC's Project Management and Acquired Assets Disposition Group (PMAADG) office located at the 4th Floor of Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City from December 11, 2006 until January 3, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.

The Financial proposal/offer shall be sealed and dropped at the designated box located at the HGC's PMAADG office.

For inquiries, please call Ruth E. Bañares or Luisa E. Cabrera at telephone nos. 897-32-86 & 897-32-90 or visit the HGC office at #335 Jade Building, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFER AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) **DANILO C. JAVIER**
Chairman
Asset Disposition Committee

(PDI–Dec. 10 & 16, 2006)

URGENT VACANCIES

A well reputed multi discipline Architectural & Engineering firm has the following vacancies:

- Architects with conceptualizing and high level presentation capabilities
- Architects with detail design development and working drawing capabilities
- Landscape Architects with conceptual and working drawing capabilities
- Architectural CAD Operators
- Building services CAD operators
- Structural CAD Operators
- Site Engineers - Civil

All categories must possess work experience ranging from 5 years to 10 years. Previous gulf experience shall be an added advantage.

Applications from interested candidates seeking placement should reach the advertiser **within 10 days** of publication of this advertisement and can be sent by post or fax or by e-mail.

E-mail: **msceb.luffair@msceb.com**
Web Site: **www.msceb.com**

Applications should be accompanied by specimen work done by the candidates over the past few years in JPEG & DWF format.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will sell on "as is, where is" basis ***DEMONETIZED TREASURY COINS*** located at the Cash Department, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate Manila and ***VARIOUS SCRAP MATERIALS*** located at Palmera Center, Cubao, Quezon City and at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila thru sealed bids to be received by the Committee not later than 10:00 A.M. on 18 December 2006 at Room MR-2C, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

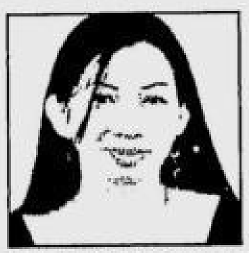
Interested parties may inspect the demonetized treasury coins at the Cash Department, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila and the various scrap materials at the Palmera Center, Cubao, Quezon City and at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila before the bidding date.

Forms and further information may be obtained from the Committee's Executive Officer, Ms. Crisanta F. Reyes, Administrative Services Department, Room 105 Ground Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila, Telephone No. 525-8161.

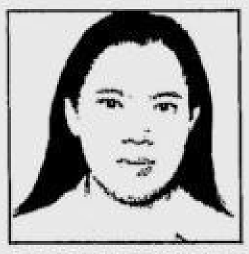
(Sgd.) EDUARDO L. MAGAHIS
Chairman

(PDI – December 10, 2006)

PPC International Corp.
No. 21 5th St. New Manila, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 724-1751, 724-1805-06



ROSEMARIE PEÑAFLORIDA
Effective date:
September 10, 2006



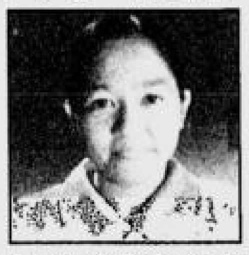
RHODORA TERMULO
Effective date:
November 2, 2006

This is to inform that the picture of persons shown above are no longer connected with PPC International Corporation.

Any transaction entered by these persons for and in behalf of the company after such date shall not be honored.

(PDI – December 10, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



ANNA THERESA MACASINAG BUNAGAN

This is to inform all that ANNA THERESA BUNAGAN whose picture appears above and with last known address at Apt.8 Bankers ave. cor. Peso St., Bankers Village 5, GB1, San Mateo, Rizal is no longer connected with IDEAL MINDS CORPORATION since June 20, 2006.

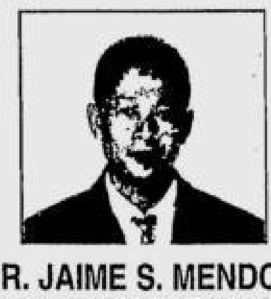
Any representation or transaction entered by the aforementioned person will not be honored by the company.

(PDI – December 10, 2006)

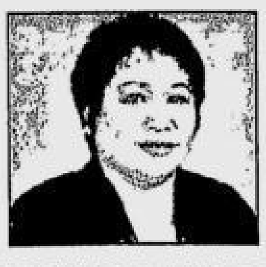
PHILAM LIFE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that **Mr. Jaime S. Mendoza** & **Mrs. Marites B. Mendoza**, whose pictures and address appear below have ceased to represent The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company or PHILAMLIFE in any capacity whatsoever in view of the termination of their Agency Contracts effective October 30, 2006, respectively.



MR. JAIME S. MENDOZA



MRS. MARITES B. MENDOZA

Block 18 Lot 14 Castro Avenue, ROBERTSVILLE, Matatalaib, Tarlac City

Any transaction made or entered into by these persons for and on behalf of PHILAMLIFE after October 31, 2006, is not valid and will not be honored by us.

(PDI – December 10, 2006)

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144
722-1155

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila
Bids and Awards Committee

Kagawaran ng Ugnayang Panlabas — Department of Foreign Affairs

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Foreign Affairs-Bids and Awards Committee (DFA-BAC) is inviting interested bidders to bid for the following projects:

1.) **DIPLOMATIC POUCH DELIVERY SERVICE**; and
2.) **JANITORIAL AND PEST CONTROL SERVICES;**

Interested bidders may acquire bid documents from 9 to 28 Dec. 2006 at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Undersecretary for Administration, 12th Floor, DFA Bldg., 2330 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, (tel. nos. 834-4066 and fax nos. 831-95-84), upon submission of Letter of Intent and payment of a **non-refundable fee**.

The Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to this bidding shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

PROJECT	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	SCHEDULE OF PRE-BID CONFERENCE	DATE AND VENUE OF SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF BIDS
1. Diplomatic Pouch Delivery Services	**Php 15,000,000** Fifteen Million Pesos	*1st Pre-Bid:* **28 Dec. 2006,** Thursday, 2:30 p.m. at the Board Lounge, 12th Floor, DFA Bldg. *2nd Pre-Bid:* **4 Jan. 2007**, Wed., 2:30 p.m. (same venue)	**10 Jan. 2007**, at the Board Lounge *Deadline for Submission of Bids:* 2:00 p.m. Opening of Bids: 2:30 p.m.
2. Janitorial and Pest Control Services	**Php 23,500,000** Twenty Three Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos	*1st Pre-Bid:* **28 Dec. 2006**, 10:00 a.m. at the Board Lounge, 12th Flr., DFA Bldg. *2nd Pre-Bid:* **4 Jan. 2007**; 10:00 a.m. (same venue)	**11 Jan. 2007** at the Board Lounge *Deadline for Submission of Bids:* 10:00 a.m. *Opening of Bids:* 10:30 p.m.

DFA-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, and to waive any deficiencies and required formalities embodied therein. DFA-BAC assumes no obligations whatsoever to offset the expenses and/or losses the bidder may have incurred in the preparation of the bids. DFA-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, and/or not to award the contract, and makes no assurances that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **FRANKLIN M. EBDALIN**
Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs
and Chairman, DFA-BAC

(PDI–Dec. 10 & 17, 2006)

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11,950php	5,590php
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15" Digital Monitor w/ Keyboard & Mouse	15" Digital Monitor w/ Keyboard & Mouse
5,150php	4,620php

Lagro 417-2397	Araneta 718-0700	Alabang 850-9299	Valenzuela 440-0142
Marikina 933-6068	Cavite [illegible]	Gimores(KPC) 412-5597	Angeles City 045-625-1457
Ortigas 717-1097	Cubao 438-7418	Gimores(MP) 416-4117	Batangas City 043-980-2048
Recto 493-6502	Fairview 428-6833	Mindanao Ave 454-3793	Calamba City 049-545-2367
Head Office 926-6260	Junction 240 2494	Makati Square 840-0693	Davao City [illegible]
	Makati 865-4109	Novaliches 418-6060	

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Iloilo
CITY OF PASSI

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

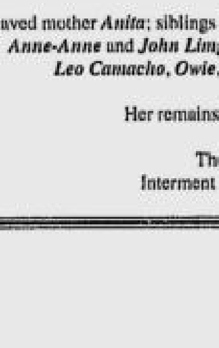
In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **FLORENCE P. PALMARES** has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from **"FLORENCIA"** to **"FLORENCE"** in the birth certificate of **FLORENCIA PALMARES** who was born on July 15, 1954 at Kiamba, Cotabato (now Kiamba, Sarangani) and whose parents are Angel Palmares and Agustina Sivila.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his/her written opposition with this office.

(Sgd.) **NORMA A. PANES**
City Civil Registrar

(PDI - Dec. 3 & 10, 2006)

OBITUARIES



Cynthia Mendoza Maddela
"Cyndy"

*Peacefully joined our Creator, her father **Dr. Inocencio B. Maddela** and brother **Edward** on December 8, 2006.*

Her bereaved mother ***Anita***; siblings ***Lourdes*** and ***Max Lauchli***, ***Norma*** and ***Jun Tiangco***, ***Tetchy*** and ***Boy Camacho IV***, ***Oscar*** and ***Hermie Mangalile***, ***Anne-Anne*** and ***John Linguangco***; nephews and niece ***Junjun***, ***Caloy*** and ***Yvette***, ***Ally*** and ***Martin Tiangco***, ***Migs***, ***Ted***, ***Greggy*** and ***Leo Camacho***, ***Owie***, ***Jerick*** and ***Katrina Maddela***, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel A-2, South Wing, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

There will be an 8:00 a.m. Mass at La Funeraria Paz on December 12, 2006, Tuesday.
Interment will follow at the Crypt of Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City.

Joseph Y. Whang

February 1, 1924 - November 17, 2006

Passed away peacefully in Vancouver, BC, Canada at the age of 82.

Beloved husband to Magdalena;
Father to Joseph Jr., William, Wendy and Grace;
Father-in-law to Elizabeth, Cheryl, Jeffrey and Rey;
Grandfather to Jonathan, Mathew, Joseph III, Vincent,
Catherine, Steven, Arian, Noelle and Nicolo.

His remains will lie in state at Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City from December 14-16, 2006. The family invites everyone to join in the celebration of mass at 8pm daily.

On December 17, 2006, there will be a 10am mass at the Immaculate Conception Academy Chapel, Greenhills, San Juan. Interment follows immediately at Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests masses and prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

What the heart has once owned and had, it shall never lose.

The Office of the Solicitor General

Republic of the Philippines

regretfully announces the untimely death of

the Honorable Assistant Solicitor General

Nestor Javier Ballacillo

who was fatally shot by as yet unknown assailants
on **December 6, 2006**

along with his son

Benedict Paul Fortaleza Ballacillo

Nestor J. Ballacillo dutifully served the Office of the Solicitor General since 1985, and was appointed as Assistant Solicitor General in 1998. Known for his exemplary honesty and brilliant legal mind, Nestor represented the Republic of the Philippines as counsel in several of the most complex and controversial cases. He did so with unwavering courage, nationalistic passion, and praiseworthy competence. The embodiment of an ideal public servant, Nestor also worked for the Probation Administration of the Department of Justice, and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration. He is author of the much-respected book, "Probation and Parole: A Source Book on Constitutional, Statutory and Decisional Principles." Nestor was valedictorian of the Arellano University School of Law, Class of 1983

Born on December 26, 1949, Nestor was just 56 years old when he met his untimely demise. Benedict, born on april 4, 1984, was just 22 years old. Nestor and Benedict are survived by wife and mother **Lourdes**, and daughter and sister **Bernadette**.

Their remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz in Sucat, Parañaque. A memorial service will held on Monday, December 11, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. after a 5:00 p.m. mass. Their remains will be cremated the following day.

---

*"I am the way, the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me."* John 14:6

---

*So dearly loved...
So fondly remembered...
So truly missed...*

*In Memory
of our Beloved*

ATTY. FELIPE DEL ROSARIO, JR.

*who passed away on December 7, 2006
at the age of 69.*

His wife, **Lyda**
His children, **Dennis Jose** and **Esther**, **Francis**,
Felipe "Toti" III and **Ma. Divina**, **Liza** and **Louay**,
Roy Nicanor and **Aileen**
Grandchildren, **Mikko**, **Ian**, **Fritz**, **Pam**, **Vea**, **Marj**, **Sofie**, **Roni** and **Nico**

request the pious readers for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 1 of the Mortuary and Crematory at The Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, December 12, 2006 at The Heritage Park after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

"Your presence will be deeply missed but the memories of your goodness will live with us and remain in our hearts forever."

Mortuary and Crematory at The Heritage Park

"Vir"

Mr. Virgilio Gatchalian

of Malolos, Bulacan
1953-2006

Formerly with PNB Provident Fund &
PNB Macabebe, Pampanga

Vir, as he is fondly called in PNB circle was a man of few words and yet he was always surrounded by throngs of friends who valued and respected his friendship. He was always a shoulder anyone can lean on especially during one's difficult and hard-trying times. He had never waived in his belief of goodness in each individual that was noctured in him by his loving parents.

May the soul of my dearest friend, a friend to so many, a godparent to countless numbers, a loving brother to his sisters and brothers, parents' pride and joy, rest in peace and may his loving memory reside in all our hearts.

COL. PEDRO CABAÑERO GAERLAN (Ret.)

of Baguio City and Quezon City

*Peacefully joined the Lord on
December 09, 2006 at the age of 72.*

His wife Erlinda & children: Gerry & Josephine, Mary Ann, Judith & Rupert, Irene, Dina, Carmelo, Martin & Daniel; grandchildren, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at Nacional Memorial Homes G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on December 14, 2006 after the 9:00 a.m. mass.

For your Classified Ads requirements:

HEAD OFFICE:
897-8808
loc. 514, 516;
899-4425;
897-2535;
897-8425
(Telefax)

CUBAO:
912-9008 to 11
(Aurora)

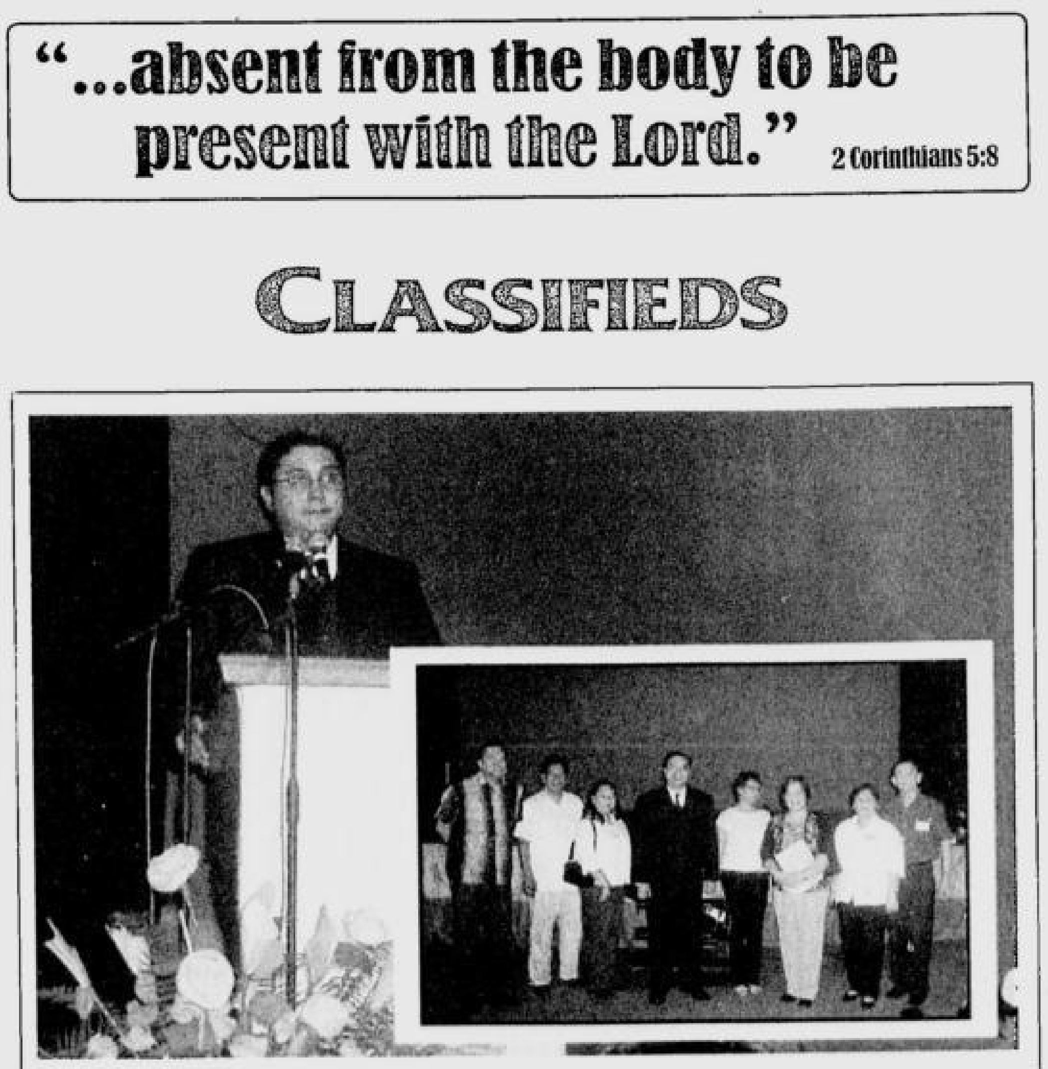
MAKATI:
892-5578;
811-4361;
811-4370

KALAW:
528-0213;
527-3342

MEGAMALL:
635-0219;
635-0220

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

CLASSIFIEDS



SUBIC DIALOGUE TO PATCH EMPLOYMENT GAPS

Far Eastern University AVP for Human Resource Development and Personnel Management Association of the Philippines' Chair for the Industry-Academe Collaboration Advocacy Committee, Benedict James B. Duran (left) discusses "The Overall Picture of Employment in the Philippines" with the members of the academe, students, NGO's, LGU's PESO officers, DTI, School Organizations, Parent-Teachers Associations, Health Organization & SBF locators and investors in order for them to dovetail their curriculum, programs and projects for the region to patch employment gaps and achieve Industrial Peace. PMAP chapter heads and members from Subic and Bulacan are also found in the photo (inset).

JOB Market
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2006
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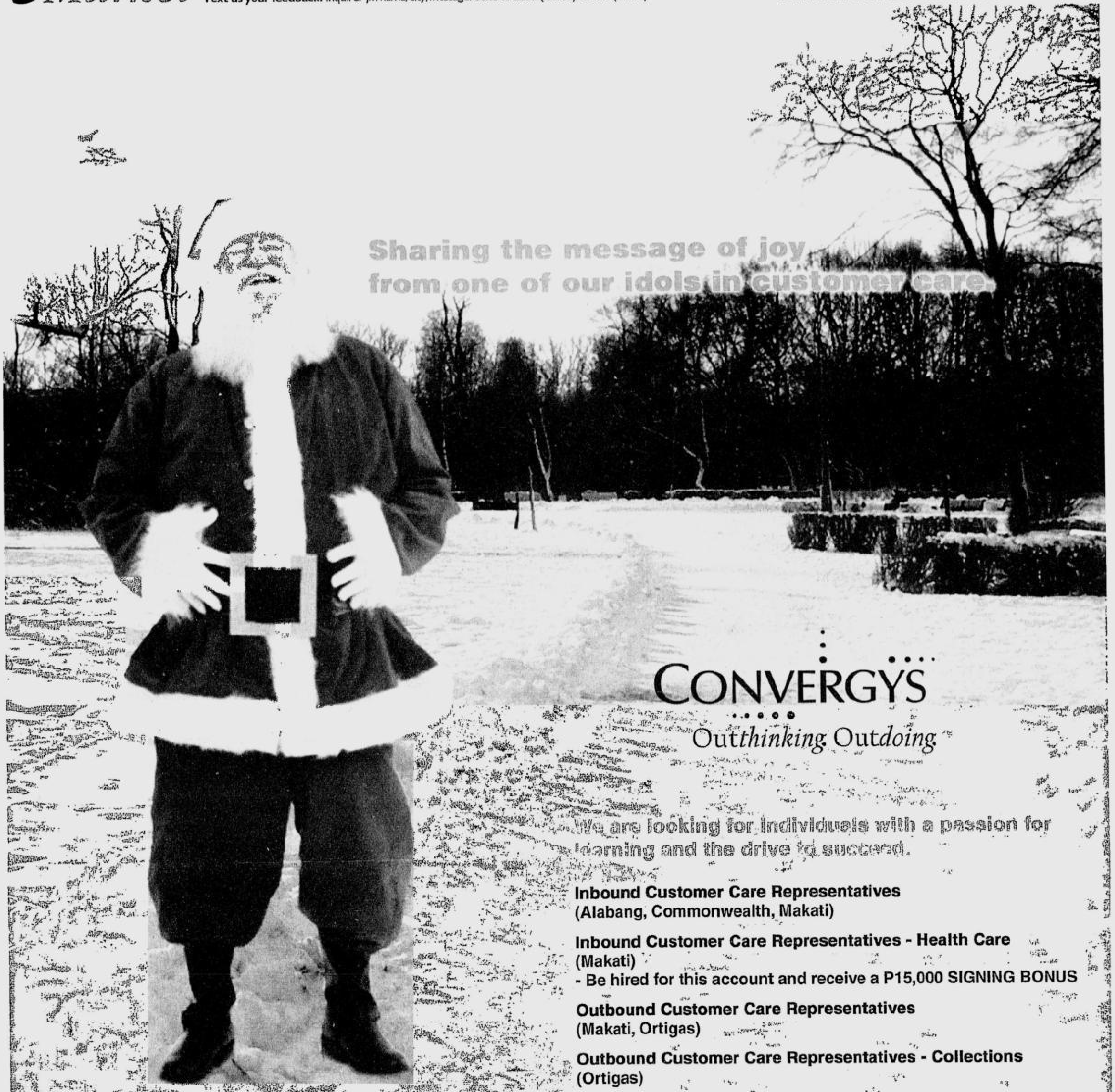
For jobseekers, log on to: www. jobmarketonline.com
JOBMarket is exclusively for job advertisements. This special section comes FREE with your copy of the INQUIRER published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
RATES (R-VAT exclusive) P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
DEADLINES for reservations / cancellations / corrections Thursday 12:00 noon
Text us your feedback: Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
Find A Career In Here.
51



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Outthinking Outdoing

We are looking for individuals with a passion for learning and the drive to succeed.

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Inbound Customer Care Representatives - Health Care
(Makati)
- Be hired for this account and receive a P15,000 SIGNING BONUS

Outbound Customer Care Representatives
(Makati, Ortigas)

Outbound Customer Care Representatives - Collections
(Ortigas)

Technical Support Representatives
(Makati, Ortigas)

Financial and Sales Associates
(Ortigas)

Fraud Analyst
(Makati)

Other Openings:

Operations Manager - Customer Service Account
(Alabang)

Team Leaders - Billing / Insurance / Internet Service / Technical Account
(Makati)

Sourcing Officer
(Alabang, Commonwealth)

Recruitment Associate
Recruitment Specialist
Benefits Associate
ER Associate
HR Associate
(Makati)

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For U-Belt applicants, we accept walk-ins Mondays to Sundays, 10am to 7pm.

ONE LAST DAY for Company talks, tours and free interview tips in our Ortigas site on Dec. 11.

For information on how to apply, text CVG HELP to 2308 Globe/Touch Mobile or to 2951 Smart/AMP/Talk & Text

Block 44, Northgate
Cyberzone,
Muntinlupa City
(02)758-1688

R. Arcenas St.,
Arcenas Estate
Banawa Hills,
Cebu City
(032)416-5810

2/F Diliman Commercial
Center, #46 Don Mariano
Marcos Avenue, Diliman,
Quezon City
(02)756-7088

Convergys One, 6796
Ayala Ave., cor
Salcedo St. Legaspi
Village, Makati City
(02)756-7188

24th Floor, Robinsons
Equitable Tower, #4
ADB Avenue Ortigas
Center, Pasig City
(02)857-7678

Level 1, St. Thomas Square
1150 España Boulevard
cor. Padre Campa St.
Sampaloc, Manila
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Fax: 857-7431/32
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MakatiJobs@west.com

West Contact Services, Inc.

westemployment.com

Associate Management Reports Analyst

(for Market/Treasury Risks)

Responsibilities

The position assists in providing analytical and technical support for Market and Treasury Risks information technology (IT) and in management and administration of internally (IAM) and externally (EAM) managed assets for ordinary capital resources (OCR) portfolios including the design, maintenance and enhancement of the application systems supporting these functions.

For more details about the position, please see http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the two professional staff of the Market/Treasury Risks team in the Risk Management Unit (RMU).

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level.
- a Bachelor degree, preferably in finance, accounting, economics, mathematics, information technology, or statistics; graduate studies preferred.
- at least 5 years experience in management information systems, portfolio research and analysis, international banking operations, fixed income reporting operations, portfolio investment and administration or accounting.
- strong understanding of the nature and behavior of global finance and capital markets as well as investment principles and fund management.
- good understanding of credit and interest rate risk and its interrelationship with portfolio management; sound knowledge of mathematics.
- proficiency in utilization of specialized Treasury systems and information services (Bloomberg, Reuters, Numerix, Moody's S & P), for the administration of functions such as risk, performance attribution, profit and loss, duration, and other financial concepts.
- demonstrated technical proficiency in programming financial algorithms, writing complex database queries, performing statistical analyses and generating concepts for management information purposes and in understanding and handling various computer applications.
- experience working as a liaison between business experts and technical staff in the maintenance and enhancement of financial and reporting systems.
- strong in written and oral communication.
- keen understanding and knowledge of business protocols.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS06-262(4)-RMU** and **job title** on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **22 December 2006.**

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank ADB

www.adb.org

Assistant Archivist

Responsibilities

The position, under the supervision of the Specialist in charge, is responsible for organizing, maintaining and conserving the archival records of ADB, providing reference and research services, administering the documents conversion of archival records, and support the Public Communications Policy.

For more details about the position, please see http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to Director and/or designated professional staff in the Information Resources and Services Section (OAFA-IR).

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include

- Suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level.
- Advanced degree in archives administration, library science, or other information management discipline.
- At least five years experience as a practicing archivist.
- Working knowledge and understanding of established records management policies and procedures.
- Thorough knowledge of archival/library operations and preservation techniques.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and excellent command of written and spoken English.
- Working knowledge of computer applications used in multilateral organizations.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS06-232(4)-OAFA-IR** and **job title** on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **22 December 2006.**

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank ADB

www.adb.org

PHOENIX LAND

PHOENIX LAND INC. is a premiere real estate company engaged in developing high-end residential and resort projects. Our flagship project is **Las Haciendas Resort Farms**, an exciting 342-hectare resort-farm project in Laurel Batangas facing the scenic Taal Lake and volcano.

We are currently in need of the following for immediate employment:

MARKETING OFFICER

- Must posses a Bachelor's/College degree in Sales & Marketing/Mass Communications/Advertising/Media or equivalent degree
- Must posses a proven track record in Marketing
- Experience in tri-media marketing an advantage
- Team player

We offer monthly allowances, generous commissions, monthly and quarterly incentives and marketing support and collaterals for lucky candidates who will occupy the following position:

SALES MANAGER

- Graduate of any four year course
- Preferably 28-40 years of age
- Must have a strong track record in sales, with at least 3 years experience as Senior Sales Manager
- Must be capable of organizing and motivating an entire project sales force
- Must be able to formulate strategic plans and programs to achieve sales targets
- Must have strong presentation skills

PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

- Graduate of any four year course
- With at least one (1) year experience in selling real estate properties
- Must have sold properties worth 1.5M and above
- Must have an established network of clients

Please submit your resumé with 2x2 picture @ 11/F BDO Plaza, #8737 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City and look for Ms. Vangie Ramos. You may also email your resumé at ehramos@lashaciendas.com.ph / vangieramOs@yahoo.com. For other details contact 8128490 or 8125059.

UN DP

The UNDP project on "Coaching and Mentoring on Gender and Human Rights Mainstreaming across UNDP Practice Areas and UN Agencies in the Philippines" is in search of qualified candidate for the post of a Consultant- Gender Advisor and Trainor. The consultant will be engaged for a period of 11 months.

The project aims to ensure that gender and human rights will be effectively mainstreamed in programming processes such as the preparation and monitoring of Annual Work Plans and Country Programme Action Plans, development of MDG and NHDR reports and other international reporting requirements such as the CEDAW. The strategy is to build the capacities of programme staff of the UNDP Country Office, UN agencies (including the UNDAF Working Groups) and UNCT Gender Theme Groups (or the UN Gender Mainstreaming Committee) as well as its partner stakeholders to effectively mainstream gender and human rights in its policies, programmes and projects by undergoing coaching intervention in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Expected Roles and Functions :

1. Provide advise and guidance on policies and programming in mainstreaming gender in UNDP portfolio projects;
2. Enhance capacities on UN Country Team (UNCT) and UNDP Programme Staff in gender mainstreaming through coaching and mentoring of core trainors among UN programme staff;
3. Conduct gender and human rights audit and assessment of selected UN and UNDP a projects;
4. Develop a UNDP Country Office Gender Mainstreaming Strategy addressing specific thematic areas;
5. Establish accountability and monitoring tools and mechanisms at UNDAF and CPAP levels;
6. Strengthen UNCT Gender Theme Group and Gender Focal Person System across UN agencies;
7. Develop a UN Joint Programme on Gender and assist in the resource mobilization activities in support of this joint programme.

Qualifications :

1. Must be a graduate of Social and Political Science, with proven professional knowledge on gender and human rights concepts, or equivalent relevant experience;
2. More than five (5) years of relevant work experience in the area of development, gender and human rights;
3. Key competencies of the assignment – solid general knowledge of issues pertaining to human rights, gender, administration of justice and poverty reduction, cross-cultural sensitivity and strong interpersonal skills (need to deal with a wide range of stakeholders from Government and non-government organizations) are more than value-added, fluent in spoken and written English;
4. Must be familiar with UN rules and systems.

All application letters and comprehensive resumes should reach our office on or before 15 December 2006. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, tel. # 901 0273

This advertisement shall remain posted in www.undp.org.ph until December 15, 2006.

ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT, INC.
is in need of

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Qualifications:

- With sales experience preferably in advertising and entertainment media
- Outgoing, very aggressive and determined to succeed
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Please send your comprehensive resumé with picture to:
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ST. MARY OF THE WOODS SCHOOL

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HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER

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Tel. Nos. 815-1601 / 844-1615 / 844-1934
729-7674 / 729-7675 / 8876850
E-mail: stmary@pacific.net.ph • stmary.admin@pacific.net.ph
marcials@pacific.net.ph • Website http://www.smws.edu.ph

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- **MACHINE OPERATOR**
  With experience in production

Personally apply at 3F Sentro Kapitolyo Bldg., 59 West Capitol Dr. Brgy. Kapitolyo Pasig City; Monday to Friday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Tel. 747-2222: Bring resumé

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Cebu Pacific International Language Services (CPILS) is a pioneering and fast-growing ESL/EFL center in Cebu specializing in teaching short-term, non-credit, and intensive English courses to international students who are non-native English speakers.

We are looking for competent individuals to fill the following position:

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- **Must have English as a first language (American, Canadian, Australian or British citizen)**
- **ESL teaching experience is an advantage but not essential as training will be provided**
- **Preferably a holder of Philippine resident visa**
- **Preference given to applicants who have a positive attitude, are good team players and are creative and open-minded**

JOIN OUR TEAM AND BE WITH THE BEST

Applicants must submit their application letter and resume with 2X2 picture to:

THE ADMIN OFFICE
Cebu Pacific International Language Services
Benedicto Building, MJ Cuenco Avenue Cebu City
(formerly, The Harbor View Hotel)

or they can send their applications to these email addresses:
cpils_hrd@yahoo.com.ph / cpils_cebu@hotmail.com
(please indicate the position in the subject line of the email)

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WE ARE IN NEED OF:

[10] ENGLISH AS SECOND LANGUAGE TEACHER

> Excellent in Oral and Written English
> Knowledge in Japanese and Korean Language is an advantage but not a requirement
> Teaching Experience is an Advantage
> Call Center and Broadcasting Experience a Plus
> Must be willing to work on shifts

For inquiries or submission of resume, contact the following:

Able Advertising Agency
Unit 8 Bohol Mansion, # 43 Sgt Esquerra St., Quezon City
Phone: 413.66.25 / able.ad.agency@gmail.com
Or submit to security guard of Port Royal Building, Rada St., Makati City

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ASIA SOCIETY PHILIPPINE FOUNDATION INC

A non-profit NGO fostering relations among peoples in Asia and between Asia and the USA through educational programs, lectures, exhibitions, study tours.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

- Responsible for membership recruitment and liaison with members and press;
- Assists the Programs Director in program management;
- Functions as Executive Assistant to the Executive Director.

Requirements: College degree and a few years working experience; good communication and writing skills in English; some knowledge of accounting/budgeting; team spirit.

Salary: Php 25,000 plus, depending on experience

Apply in writing with resume to Ex Dir Asia Society,
2nd flr. AIM Conference Center, Benavidez Str.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City before Dec 15.
Email: theoa@asiasoc.org.ph

ASIA SOCIETY PHILIPPINE FOUNDATION INC

A non-profit NGO fostering relations among peoples in Asia and between Asia and the USA through educational programs, lectures, exhibitions, study tours.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Assists the Admin. & Finance Officer in:
- answering incoming tel calls and inquiries
- managing incoming and outgoing fax messages
- administering daily payments and revenues
- managing the office supplies and petty cash fund
- preparing program materials
- overseeing the duties of office-messenger

Requirements: College degree and a few years working experience in an administrative function; good communication and writing skills in English; team spirit.

Salary: negotiable, depending on experience

Apply in writing with resume to Ex Dir Asia Society,
2nd flr. AIM Conference Center, Benavidez Str.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City, before Dec 15.
Email: theoa@asiasoc.org.ph with ref to job

IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!

✓ **English Tutors**
- at least 21 to 29 yrs. old with teaching experience.
- must be efficient in Standard American English.
- must be an Education, Psychology or Nursing graduate.
- Must have a pleasing personality

✓ **IPA** (International Phonetic Alphabet) **TEACHER**
- must be an American citizen
- at least 23 to 35 years old
- must be an Education graduate with 1 year teaching experience

REQUIREMENTS:
- Resumé with 2x2 picture
- Transcript of Records & Diploma
- Authenticated Birth Certificate

EETC
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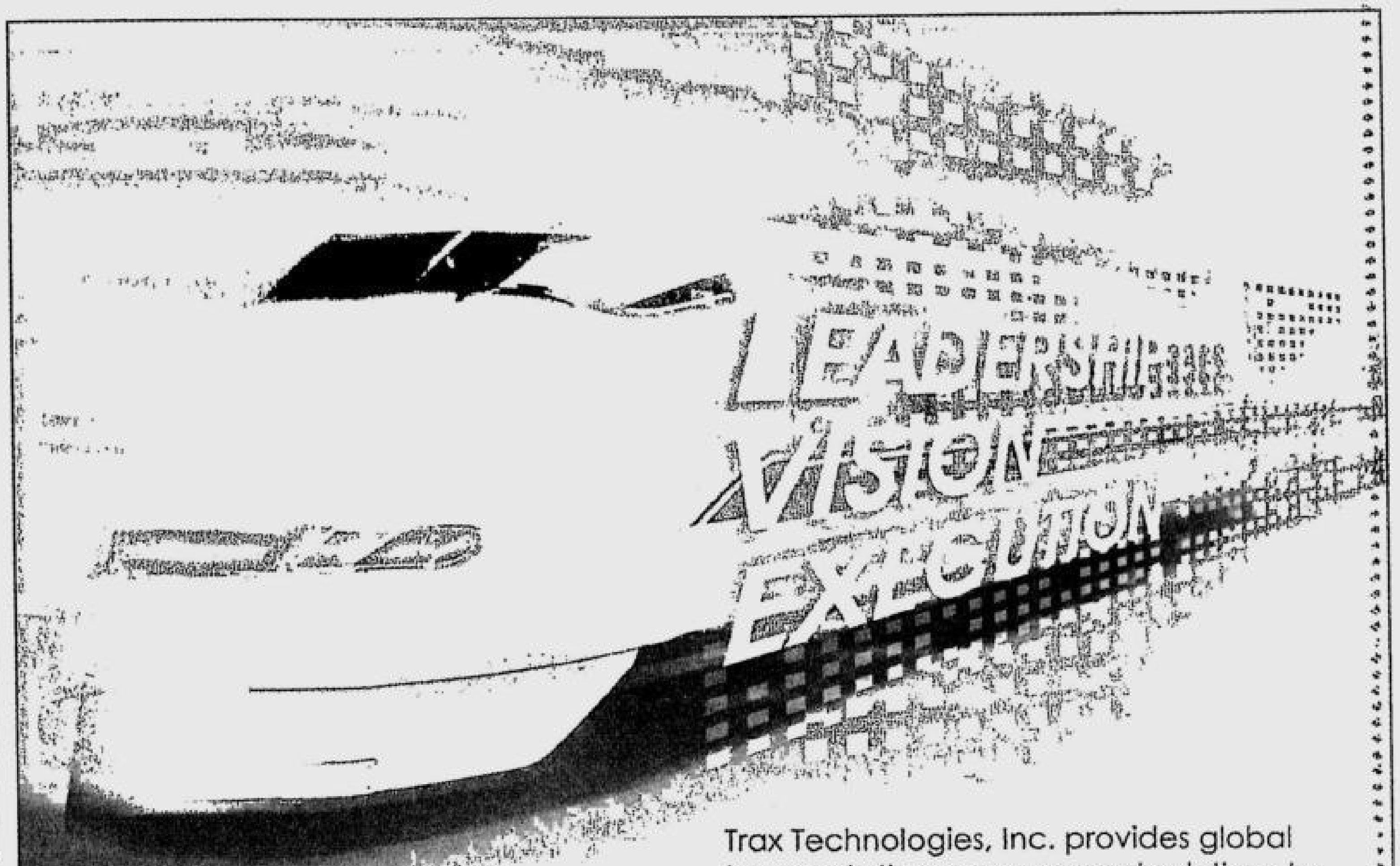
Madrigal Business Park.
Ayala Alabang Muntinlupa City
Tel Nos. 771-2232/771-2234



Trax Technologies, Inc. provides global transportation management solutions to corporations including Fortune 500 companies.

Trax Technologies empowers transportation experts to leverage the Internet and emerging technologies for tactical and strategic advantage. We are the only global Business Process Management company focused on the supply chain logistics processes, from freight payment, rating and data management.

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After a recently-completed 18-month global expansion, we are building a major Asian headquarters operation in Cebu, with at least two (2) more offices in other Asian countries opening in 2007.

A company with a social conscience and global vision, we are looking for multilingual IT professionals who are ready to see what's up ahead. We offer above-industry compensation packages, company-sponsored travels and training in international locations including our regional offices in Costa Rica, Arizona, and Prague.

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We are currently looking for:

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With 15+ years of global experience in logistics, transportation, business process outsourcing, finance consulting, business management consulting, software development or operations management

Senior Operations Officer
With 15+ years of experience in operations management of knowledge-based businesses or high-tech factories

Asian New Business Development Officer
With 15+ years of sales management experience across all of Asia in the logistics, transportation, financial consulting or business management consulting industries

Industrial Process Engineers
With 10+ years of experience in Business Process Outsourcing, Logistics or Transportation Industries

Logistics Finance Managers
With 10+ years of experience in logistics finance for multi-national corporations

Product Development Managers
With 10+ years of experience in product management of technology driven solutions

Product Managers
With 10+ years of experience in logistics, transportation or supply chain industries within a software, application service provider or business process outsourcing organization

Sales Operations and CRM Process Manager
With 7+ years of Sales Operation and CRM process management for mid-sized to large multi-national corporations

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With 10+ years of software development management experience in web-based technologies in Microsoft environments

Software Development Manager
With 10+ years of software development management experience in Microsoft development environments C# and C++

Software Project Managers
With 10+ years of software development project management experience in complex software development environments

C# Software Developers
With 10+ years of software development experience and extensive experience in C# development projects

SQL Software Developers
With 10+ years of software development experience and extensive experience in Microsoft Transact SQL

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Please email your applications to **apacjobs@traxtech.com** or send your applications to Trax Technologies -APAC, 8th floor, PIPC i2 Building, Asiatown IT Park, Lahug, Cebu City. For more information about our company, we invite you to visit our website at www.traxtech.com.

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- Willing to travel

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé in MS Word format to this e-mail:
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IFC
International Finance Corporation
World Bank Group

The International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank, has established a technical assistance program for Small and Medium Enterprises in the Philippines (PEP Philippines). PEP Philippines, with contributions from other bilateral and multi-lateral donors, has offices in Manila and Davao, Mindanao. The program has a mandate to provide technical assistance to support the development of small and medium enterprises, particularly in Mindanao, initially in three key areas: access to finance, agribusiness linkages and business enabling environment.

PEP Philippines is currently seeking for Consultants for the Philippine Seaweed/Carrageenan Value Chain Study.

Scope of the job: Stage 1: Desk review - The consultants will review existing literatures, studies, trade data on global and Philippine seaweed/carrageenan value chain. And develop a work plan for field work/interviews/FGDs with industry players. The work plan should include indicators which will be used to come up with analysis that comply with the objectives. It is understood that entry into plants or meeting with entrepreneurs may be difficult, the successful consultant will need to indicate how they will approach this aspect of the study to ensure the quality of information they receive.

The consultants will prepare a FGD guide and survey questionnaire that will be used to collect information from primary sources for approval by IFC-PENSA/PEP Philippines.

Stage 2: Field work: Industry Interviews, Survey and FGDs. Arrange meetings and FGDs. Conduct interviews, survey and FGDs among key players and informants.

Stage 3: Data/Information Processing & Report Writing

Stage 4. Presentation of Findings to IFC & GTZ Coordinating Body

Stage 5. Conduct of "Industry Forum" to unite key players on the value-chain framework, and agree on mechanism to implement the value-chain initiative.

Qualifications and Position Requirements:

1. Previous work on value chains analysis required;
2. Knowledge of and contacts in the seaweed/carrageenan industry an advantage;
3. Fluency in English and local languages in Southern Philippines.
4. Previous experience with IFC technical assistance facilities preferred.
5. Proposed consultancy rate will be considered.

Interested parties would be assessed against the following criteria each weighted by relative level of importance;

• Technical Expertise	(50%)
• Knowledge of the Industry/Market	(20%)
• Price	(30%)

All submission of interest should be sent in electronic format to Agnes G. Luz (ALuz@ifc.org) and Mary Jean Roxas (Mary.Roxas@gtz.de) not later than the close of business hours on January 5, 2007. All proposals will be treated with strictest confidence. For corporate information, please visit www.ifc.org. You may email Agnes Luz for complete terms of reference.

Only email submissions will be considered.

IFC
International Finance Corporation
World Bank Group

The International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank, has established a technical assistance program for Small and Medium Enterprises in the Philippines (PEP Philippines). PEP Philippines, with contributions from other bilateral and multi-lateral donors, has offices in Manila and Davao, Mindanao. The program has a mandate to provide technical assistance to support the development of small and medium enterprises, particularly in Mindanao, initially in three key areas: access to finance, agribusiness linkages and business enabling environment.

PEP Philippines is currently seeking Business Development Service Providers for the Establishment of Farmer-based Seaweed Nursery Enterprises

Scope of the job: The BDS provider will manage the establishment of nurseries in Zamboanga City, and conceptualize and implement a scheme to legally and operationally transform pre-identified farmer organizations into enterprises that could operate the seaweed nurseries in a sustainable manner. One week after signing the contract, the BDS provider will present an inception report detailing project activities to be carried out within the timeframe of 120 days. working within a total contract budget of no more than US$50,000. The IFC Seaplant Network Philippines team shall provide technical (agronomic) expertise, oversee and approve all activities including selection of farmer-groups and procurement of materials necessary for the successful conduct of the project.

The BDS provider is expected to deliver/provide the following:

a. Inception report
b. Three nurseries in three locations within Zamboanga City, each nursery with 15 rafts.
c. Three enterprises legally registered as business entities;
d. Working capital needed to operate the seaweed nursery operations;
e. Capacity-building Needs Assessment of recipient farmer-groups
f. A viable scheme to professionally set up, operate, capacitate, and transfer the management of nurseries to the farmer-based enterprises that includes:
    i. buy-in strategies for target groups including appropriate financial management scheme to include common industry fund build up;
    ii. training and institutional mechanisms necessary to ensure the development of the capacity of the organization to manage the business in a sustainable way ;
g. Final report of activity which should also include: training materials used, lessons learned from activity and further recommendations for strengthening the nursery enterprises.

Qualification Requirements:

1. Proven competency in providing business development service for farmer groups in Mindanao;
2. Past experience with seaweed farmers or fisher folk
3. Must show financial capacity to undertake activity;
4. Past experience in provision or facilitation of access to micro-financing services to farmers/fisher folk is an advantage.
5. Knowledge of and contacts in the seaweed/carrageenan industry an advantage;
6. Fluency in English and local languages in Southern Philippines.
7. Has complied with World Bank vendor eligibility requirements

Interested parties would be assessed against the following criteria each weighted by relative level of importance;

• Technical Expertise	(70%)
• Price	(30%)

All submission of interest should be sent in electronic format to Agnes G. Luz (ALuz@ifc.org) with copy to Karina Vinluan (KVinluan@ifc.org) not later than the close of business hours on January 5, 2007. All proposals will be treated with strictest confidence. For corporate information, please visit www.ifc.org. You may email Agnes G. Luz for complete terms of reference.

Only email submissions will be considered.

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NCO Group is the leading provider of Business Outsourcing including account receivable management with over 90 state of the art facilities. Our International presence is felt across the United States, Canada, India, Barbados, United Kingdom, Puerto Rico and Philippines.

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eon

The Stakeholder Relations Firm

EON, the pioneering stakeholder relations firm in the Philippines, is looking for dynamic and results-oriented individuals with the following qualifications:

Front Desk Officer

1. Graduate of any Bachelor degree courses, graduate of two-year courses are welcome; fresh graduates are welcome to apply
2. Excellent oral communications and interpersonal skills;
3. Knows how to operate the PABX/telephone system, deal with all incoming calls, taking down messages and routing of calls and messages
4. Experienced in preparing reports, write-ups, arrange and organize meetings;
5. Computer literate, particularly on Outlook, Word, Excel and PowerPoint.
6. Able to work under minimal supervision and willing to accept tasks outside of the job description

Network Engineer (MIS)

1. Graduate of Information Technology with at least 3 years experience
2. Proficiency in Windows 2000/XP/2003, Fedora Core Linux
3. Knowledgeable in networking protocols and topologies
4. Knowledge of network security, firewall setup, intrusion detection and prevention, knowledge in Macromedia Flash, Photoshop and web designing is an advantage
5. Network performance analysis & capacity planning
6. Excellent verbal and written communication skills with high initiative level, a team player
7. Must be able to work independently and willing to work long hours

Account Managers

1. A Bachelor degree holder in Business or Communications;
2. Must have at least two years experience in project/account management work;
3. Must be a team player with excellent oral and written communication and public relations skills;
4. Preferably with business contacts;
5. Must be proficient in business software applications;
6. Must be able to work independently and willing to work long hours.

(2) Finance Assistants

1. **Accounting graduate, not necessarily a CPA;**
2. **Good scholastic records;**
3. **Organized and skilled in record keeping, preparing financial documents/reports, particularly payroll, checks, SSS/Pag-ibig/Philhealth;**
4. **familiar with accounting software (such as Peachtree or Quickbooks)**
5. **Can work under minimal supervision.**

Marketing Assistant

1. Requires a Bachelor degree in Marketing or related field.
2. Must have at least two to three years of marketing experience preferably in the Advertising and PR industry.
3. Must have at least 2 years experience in conducting research
4. With Excellent written and oral communications skills
5. With pleasing personality

Human Resource Officer

1. Completed at least 4 years of college education, preferably in the areas of psychology, social sciences, or management;
2. At least 2 years experience in human resources development/management;
3. At least 1 year supervisory experience;
4. Experience in the exercise of administrative functions;
5. Effective motivational and interpersonal skills;
6. Competent and proficient in the application of computer software packages;
7. Knowledge in operating basic office equipment.

EON helps build mutually-beneficial and trust-based relationships among its stakeholders by leveraging on a combination of advanced communication methodologies and a wide network of contacts.

Qualified applicants may send their application letter, Transcript of records and comprehensive resume to the following address: 5/F Valderrama Bldg., 107 Esteban St., Legaspi Village, Makati City 1200 or email: hrd@eon.com.ph

Only short-listed candidates will be notified.

For more information, please visit www.eon.com.ph

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Are you looking for a job that will make a difference in other people's lives while you visit exotic locations and talk and work with people from other cultures?

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The Young Liberals and Democrats of Asia (YLDA) is the regional federation of liberal youth organizations and individuals in the continent. It is a rapidly-growing network that organizes various workshops, training seminars, campaigns for issues, and dialogue among young liberals in the region.

YLDA needs a dynamic and dedicated young person who will be our next **Program Officer**, managing our secretariat based in Manila and oversee our communications, events and operations. The successful applicant should hold at least a bachelor's degree from a reputable university, and have work experience in project planning and implementation. Additional experience and skills in the following areas are essential: policy research and advocacy, events management, political organization and international relations. S/he should be fluent in written and spoken English with good interpersonal skills, computer literate and internet savvy, and willing to travel and work long hours in a multi-tasking environment under an international and multi-cultural setting.

Applications, including a cover letter, curriculum vitae with recent 2x2 colored picture and a copy of the Transcript of Records, should be sent to secretariat@yldasia.org (with the subject header: Application for Program Officer). Deadline for application is December 27, 2006.

So if you have that drive to help bring about change, then don't hesitate to tell us. Chances are, you might be the one we're looking for.

Go to www.yldasia.org for more details on the work of YLDA and its program officer.

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- Must be single, at least 20-35 years old
- Must be a graduate of BS Accountancy or any related course
- With at least 2 years related working experience
- Willing to work on extended hours; can work under pressure
- Must be computer literature

Interested applicants may submit their recent resumé with picture at:

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Tel. Nos. 525-8530 (Fax) 525-4254 look for Ms. Loida / Agnes

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Interested parties may call **MS. ECELLE CRUZ** at Tel Nos. 7246629/7219283 or send cover letter and resume at Fax No. 7217102 or email at **vlchanlaw@yahoo.com.ph**

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(Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao Territories)

- 2 to 3 years experience as a Professional Medical Representative or as a Sales Representative in a respectable Pharmaceutical/Consumer Goods company.
- Male or female not more than 30 years of age.
- Above average communication skills in English and a local language.
- Customer oriented with a pleasing personality and good interpersonal skills.
- Persuasive, persevering, self-motivated and a team player with leadership potentials.
- Willing to travel and be assigned anywhere in the Philippines.
- Talented fresh graduates with good academic record may also apply.

Compensation and Benefits:

- Basic salary and fieldwork allowance ranges from P 15,000.00 to P 18,000.00/month. Higher start may be considered for talented individuals with good experience.
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- Minimum of 5 years experience as a sales manager preferably in a multi-national pharmaceutical/consumer goods company.
- Above average communication skills, verbal and non-verbal (English)
- Self-confident, aggressive and result-oriented.
- Must have a proven track record of leading a successful sales team with strong leadership and inter-personal skills
- Willing to travel and be assigned anywhere in the Philippines

*Interested applicants may submit their resume in person or e-mail it at **zynovahrd@yahoo.com** on or before December 15, 2006.*

OFFICE ADDRESS:
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F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas, Pasig City, Philippines

E-MAIL ADDRESS: zynovahrd@yahoo.com

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The World Council of Credit Unions Inc. (www.woccu.org), CUES Philippines Project, a USAID Project in Mindanao, Philippines, seeks experts in the fields of micro-finance, finances, banking, financial products development, audit and inspection of the financial institutions.

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1. Technical Advisor

General objective: Offer technical support to the micro-finance and financial institutions beneficiaries of the Project. Build local capacities and train Federations in the use of technical assistance tools and methodologies of the Project.

Qualifications:

- Advanced degree in economics, finance, banking, administration, management.
- Required skills in planning and forecasting, facilitation, training and consulting.
- Good communication skills and excellent customer service orientation.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills in English and Filipino.
- Preferably with two years experience working in financial institutions such as accounting, financial services, credit analysis, financial products development, financial analysis. Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.
- Above average skills in MS Office applications preferred.
- Have a driver's license.
- Willing to work in Northern and Southern Mindanao.

2. Examiner

General objective: Conducts risk-based examination to the partner financial institutions using the prescribed methodology. Makes appropriate recommendations and follow-ups.

Qualifications:

- CPA with two years experience in financial institutions. Also, advanced degree in Accounting is preferred.
- Fresh graduates are also encouraged to apply.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills in English and Filipino.
- Knowledge of Philippine Accounting standards and Tax laws.
- Above average skills in MS Office applications preferred.
- Have a driver's license.
- Willing to work in Northern and Southern Mindanao.

All candidates hired will be trained using different WOCCU tools and methodologies used in the Project.

Please send a chronological CV, 3 references and a brief cover letter to arodriguez@woccu.org by December 29th, 2006. Specify position in email subject line. Final candidates will be contacted for interviews.

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- Can work under pressure and willing to be assigned for out-of-town assignments
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BalikPINAS offers free seminars, advice, business opportunities

IN RESPONSE TO A crying need of overseas Filipinos, *balik-bayans*, professionals, and their families and friends, *BalikPINAS* has lined up on Jan. 13-14, 2007 a series of free seminars, talks, counseling sessions and business opportunities for families and friends of overseas Filipinos and professionals here and abroad. A leading global cooperative of overseas Filipinos, *balikbayans* and professionals in the Philippines and abroad, *BalikPINAS* shall hold its Mega Launch and Expo on Jan. 13 to 14, 2007, at Megatrade Hall 2, 5/F Bldg. B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Admission is free.

With its theme, "Toward self-sufficiency and prosperity: Empowering the global Filipino", the two-day affair will showcase the co-op's institutional partners, accredited suppliers, government agencies, and other exhibitors. It will also feature a festival of Philippine folk and modern songs and dances, Filipino fashion, sense and style, as well as business- and career-related presentations and lectures.

The Mega Launch and Expo shall precede other exciting projects of this global cooperative, including trade fairs and assemblies in key provinces and cities and in the USA, UK, Canada, Hong Kong, and Singapore, for the benefit of Filipinos overseas and their families.

BalikPINAS is a non-traditional, mainstream cooperative founded by reputable overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), *balikbayans*, and their friends and relatives in the Philippines. Inspired by successful cooperatives in other countries, the mission of *BalikPINAS* is to provide personal, professional, and social services to members and related markets, as well as to promote entrepreneurship and love of country.

Invited to grace the opening rites on Jan. 13, 2007 are key government officials, cabinet members and local government officials, including Vice President Noli de Castro, Senate President Manny Villar, DOLE Secretary Art Brion, DOT Secretary Ace Durano, Mayor Neptali Gonzales, and Congressmen Butz Aquino and Benhur Abalos, POEA Administrator Rosalinda Baldoz, OWWA Administrator Marianito Roque, and NAFTA Chairperson Loida Lewis.

BalikPINAS Chairman Ernie Cecilia said, "This is our way of helping the government in addressing the concerns of this growing sector of our society. The cooperative is a great venue for people with small capital to do business and to help others."

The two-day affair is being held mainly for the benefit of OFWs, *balikbayans*, Filipino professionals, their families and friends. Among the free seminars are "Career Opportunities for Returning and Retiring Filipinos Overseas", Setting Up a Viable Family Business for Dependents and Families of Overseas Filipinos", "Avoiding Frauds and Scams in Investing", "Myths and Facts about Dual Citizenship" and "BalikPINAS as Mechanism for Self-Sufficiency."

Interested sponsors and exhibitors can still *contact BalikPINAS at telefax number (632) 636 6099 or log on to its official Web site, http://www.balikpinas.com.ph.*

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- Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written.

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- 1-3 years experience in data management and/or process/project management (for Project Manager)
- 8 – 10 years experience in Project Management (for Sr. Project Manager)
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Superior analytic skills, and the ability to express results clearly in writing
- Excellent organization skills, discipline and attention to detail
- PMI certification a major plus
- Ability to handle multiple demands while keeping a positive, results-focused attitude toward clients, project stakeholders and other company members.
- Creative and innovative problem solving skills
- Database, data production or data presentation experience a plus

WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSTS:

- Language Specialists (Mandarin, Korean, Japanese, Spanish)
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Qualifications:

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2006

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Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

'How can I criticize positively?'

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilia

I AM A SUPERVISOR IN A large multinational company, with eight people who would need more than just a slight push to keep them going in the direction I want them to go. In short, I sometimes feel the need to criticize one or two of my subordinates in order to make them toe the line and perform according to my expectation.

My boss told me to avoid criticizing my people. Is it really bad to criticize others, even if my objective is to help them improve? Can you give me pointers on how I should go about telling them that they need to improve on their performance?

Tolerant Boss

Criticizing is not exactly a pleasant task, whether you are on the giving or the receiving end. As Filipinos, we have never been trained or programmed to tell someone, "Excuse me, but you have bad breath."

If we are to believe Dale Carnegie, "Criticism is dangerous, because it wounds a man's precious pride, hurts his sense of importance, and arouses his resentment."

No bad subordinates

In some cases, criticizing can be mistaken for whining or complaining. When someone under you falls short in performance or does something wrong, you are expected to help, not criticize, him or her. I even heard someone quipped, "There are no bad subordinates—only bad bosses."

Bosses are always expected to motivate, train, develop, counsel, discipline and get the best out of their people. Failing to do any of these effectively qualifies a supervisor as a bad boss.

Benjamin Disraeli seems right when he said, "It is much easier to be critical than to be correct."

Okay to criticize

Despite warnings from Carnegie and Disraeli, I'll go on a limb here and say that it is all right to criticize. However, the following conditions must exist for criticism to be effective.

First, there must be a valid reason for criticizing. Second, the criticism must not be unwelcome—criticism must be given with the tacit or explicit consent of someone on the receiving end. Third, the process in which the criticism is given must be constructive and for the purpose of helping.

Valid reason

Criticism must be given only when there is absolutely a valid reason for giving it.

What justifies criticism? If you are a supervisor or manager, you are required to manage and improve the performance of your people. When performance falls short of acceptable standards or when behavior deviates from acceptable norms, there exists a reason for criticizing positively or for providing feedback. The valid reason in these cases is to help correct and improve the performance or behavior of a subordinate.

To be on the safe side, focus on the person's performance or behavior on the job, as it affects the achievement of your own goals as a supervisor. I have seen a boss who practically berated his subordinate IT persons in the backroom for sporting long hair or dressing shabbily. Maybe, if they were food servers or frontline customer care persons, the boss would have had a valid reason. In this case, however, the boss could have been more tolerant and did not have to criticize his people.

Welcome criticism

Criticism, like advice, is best asked for. Many people, however, have the knack of giving it even if it is not asked for. Before criticizing anybody, ask if he or she wants your criticism. Tell him or her that you observed something and wish to be of help by telling him or her about it. If he or she accepts your offer, go ahead. If not, hold your tongue and desist from saying anything. However, if you are a boss, you have the right, in fact an obligation, to provide your people with feedback on how they are doing. The issue is not whether or not you should do it—the better question is how.

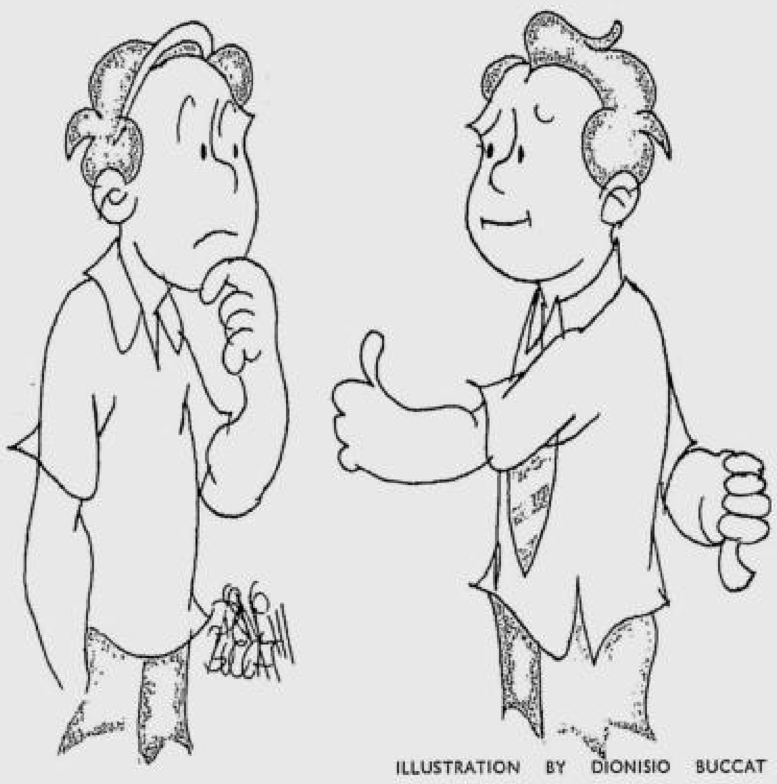

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

For people other than your subordinates, be very careful about criticizing. Nobody wants to be told how bad he or she is doing. Even if you have a noble purpose for criticizing (to help others improve), never assume that anybody will be interested to hear your comments or suggestions.

Before criticizing, try saying first, "I have some observations that can help you. Do you want my feedback" Unless they expressly ask for your criticism, just keep your observations to yourself.

Process

Always find the right time to give a criticism, even if it is asked for. Bosses must be sensitive to their subordinates' feelings, frame of mind, family situation, and mental or physical health before giving feedback. Subordinates rarely want to contradict bosses who want to give feedback, and bosses must understand this.

Usually, it is best to schedule feedback sessions in advance, alert subordinates of the areas of concern that will be discussed, and remind them to prepare for an exchange of information or ideas, and conduct these sessions one-on-one.

Most importantly, the purpose for which criticism is given usually determines the tone and the process. The best purpose for a criticism is to teach and help others improve. If the reason for the criticism is to berate someone, make him or her feel guilty, pass the buck, or find a scapegoat for managerial lapses, then one can expect a heated exchange. Criticism is best given in a helping and counseling mode.

Criticism sounds negative but, it can be a great tool for helping others to improve and become what they can truly be.

Whenever you need to criticize, and I hope the occasions are very few and far in between, always remember that the legitimate aim of criticism is to move people towards excellence. Criticism must not lead to ill feelings. Instead, it should open eyes and minds towards what need to be done to be a better person, to contribute more towards making this world a better place to live in.

(Ernie Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm.)

Gospel. Lk. 3: 1-6

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled. And every mountain and hill shall be made low"

Doing the right things

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

IN THE WORKPLACE, EVERYONE STRIVES TO DO everything right; mistakes and failures are very costly not only for the company but for everyone who would depend on its success in terms of profits. Even a very little act of carelessness on the part of a simple operator could cause a breakdown on the whole production system which could cause great financial loss to the company, which may in turn affect badly the salaries for the workers. It is therefore very important for everyone in the workplace to possess the attitude and the habit of doing everything right and making it become "automatic" in his consciousness, something like a key part in his "body clock."

This vital practice of doing things right, however, is good when what one is doing is morally right; it is bad when, obviously, the work one is doing is evil. No matter how skillful we do our task, how perfect we have executed our moves, if our work is evil and destructive of the others, we would not do well. (It is said that some people are very good at being very bad). The end does not justify the means—an evil purpose will not make right even the most perfectly executed acts.

But of course, we assume that everyone takes up a work which he perceives as good not only for himself but presumably also for the others and the rest of humanity. In this case, we believe that everyone who strives to do his work right would also contribute to the realization of the right things in life and in the world; the worker's great and small acts of dedication and precise application to every detail of his work would help to "prepare the way of the Lord, (and) make straight his paths," and thereby bring about a better workplace and eventually a "right" world for all humanity. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Old or new ways?

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

WE MAY NOT REALIZE IT BUT WE ARE OFTEN TIMES the hindrance to our own satisfaction in the workplace. When we are so set in our old ways of doing things, we tend to close ourselves off to innovations, systems and new ideas. Case in point: me. When the computer was new, my techie son would push me to use it. "Why complicate my life? I'd exclaim. I loved typing, and at 57 words per minute I could be a world champion at it. So for years my love affair with my cute electric typewriter went on. Then I became editor of Mabuhay (PAL's inflight magazine), and management ordered me to take a crash course—on a Mac, at that. One lesson and I was hooked. "Gee, why didn't I do this sooner? I could be a one-man magazine staff with the Pagemaker!"

Sometimes a gadget or an idea doesn't even have to be new to scare us away—it could also have been there for ages but we avoid it because we think it's too complicated to use. A friend who had been postponing learning to use the abacus called herself stupid after she finally discovered its wonders.

But it's not just a matter of "newness" or "oldness." The point is, we should not be content with doing without discerning; we should not do something simply because it's the "in" thing. Apply this principle at work and see the difference. One "old idea" we ignore at work is the righteousness of Jesus. Success is sweeter when we know we pursue our career with righteousness in our hearts. When we do our work "with clean hands" we prepare the way for genuine job satisfaction; when no one can find fault with our conduct in business, we make the path straight for success to come—the kind of success reserved for those bold enough to pursue it at all cost. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Start saving, not just spending this holiday season

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR FOR 13th month pays. Before you head for the nearest mall or bazaar, why not pass by your bank first and set aside a good portion of your windfall for your retirement fund?

According to Michellina Triwardhany, Citibank's retail banking director, the best time to start a saving plan is today. "It's not next year or when you're making more money. If you wait until January and make it a New Year's resolution, you may find that the amount you will be depositing is a lot less than what you initially planned for."

Studies have shown that Filipinos are now living longer, but many continue to leave planning for retirement too late in the day.

"If you're looking forward to a comfortable retirement, you would need to be able to set aside enough money to maintain your current lifestyle, take care of any health issues as well as to continue caring for your dependents, explained Triwardhany.

"To make this happen, you need to have a financial plan, and start saving as early as possible in your working life."

How to get started

Many banks already have wealth planners. At Citibank for example, they have a professional relationship manager who walks a client or a would-be client through a proprietary software that will show you where he is now and where he is headed and whether he will or will not have enough funds to fulfill his goals.

"The financial checkup is an eye-opener for most people who go through the exercise. For some, they initially had the impression that their savings are enough to cover future needs, and then later realize that inflation will considerably eat into their savings," explained Triwardhany.

Where to put your cash

After you determine your financial goals and realize how much you need to get from point A to point B, banks will usually recommend a savings plan or a bank product that can address the client's needs.

Many banks already offer Internet banking. This allows customers to transact their banking via their computers or even mobile phones.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Citibank offers a wide array of deposit products and savings plan to suit different clients.

For Citibank, its products include the Citibank Savings Guard which provides depositors an insurance. Starting amount for this is P100,000.

Its one year withdrawable time deposit is another option. For a minimum placement of P500,000, a client is given a fixed annual interest rate. Upon opening the time deposit, the client is given the option to make placements in values of P50,000, receiving 10 certificates instead of just one. If he should need cash after the first month, he can choose to preterminate some of his certificates, leaving the rest to continue earning the maximum interest rate.

This product is also available for dollar deposits.

Citibank recently developed a new product called Citibank Regular Savings Plan for people who lack the discipline to follow a savings plan. Under the plan the bank automatically takes the money from the depositor's Citibank account and earmark it for an investment chosen by the client. So make your Christmas list and check it twice, but first sit down and review your finances thrice.

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Job summary

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- Reports agent schedule adherence and agent exceptions back to various departments for agent level tracking and reporting

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- Loader Operator
- Rigger
- Plumber
- Reverse Osmosis Operator (R/O)
- Telephone Technician

Qualifications:
- Male not more than 32 years old
- Graduate of any related vocational course / College Level
- With minimum of six (6) months related experience

POWERPLANT STAFF
- Male not more than 35 years old
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- With or without license
- Must have a basic computer knowledge
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Experience in a day-to-day operation & maintenance of a power generator plant (checking of diesel engines, power generators and control panels) is an advantage.

Interested applicants must bring bio-data / resumé with 2x2 picture, Diploma, Transcript of Records and SSS Employment History at:

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Ms. Rose Alfonso, HR Manager
at Tel. No. (047) 252-1811/(047) 252-1812

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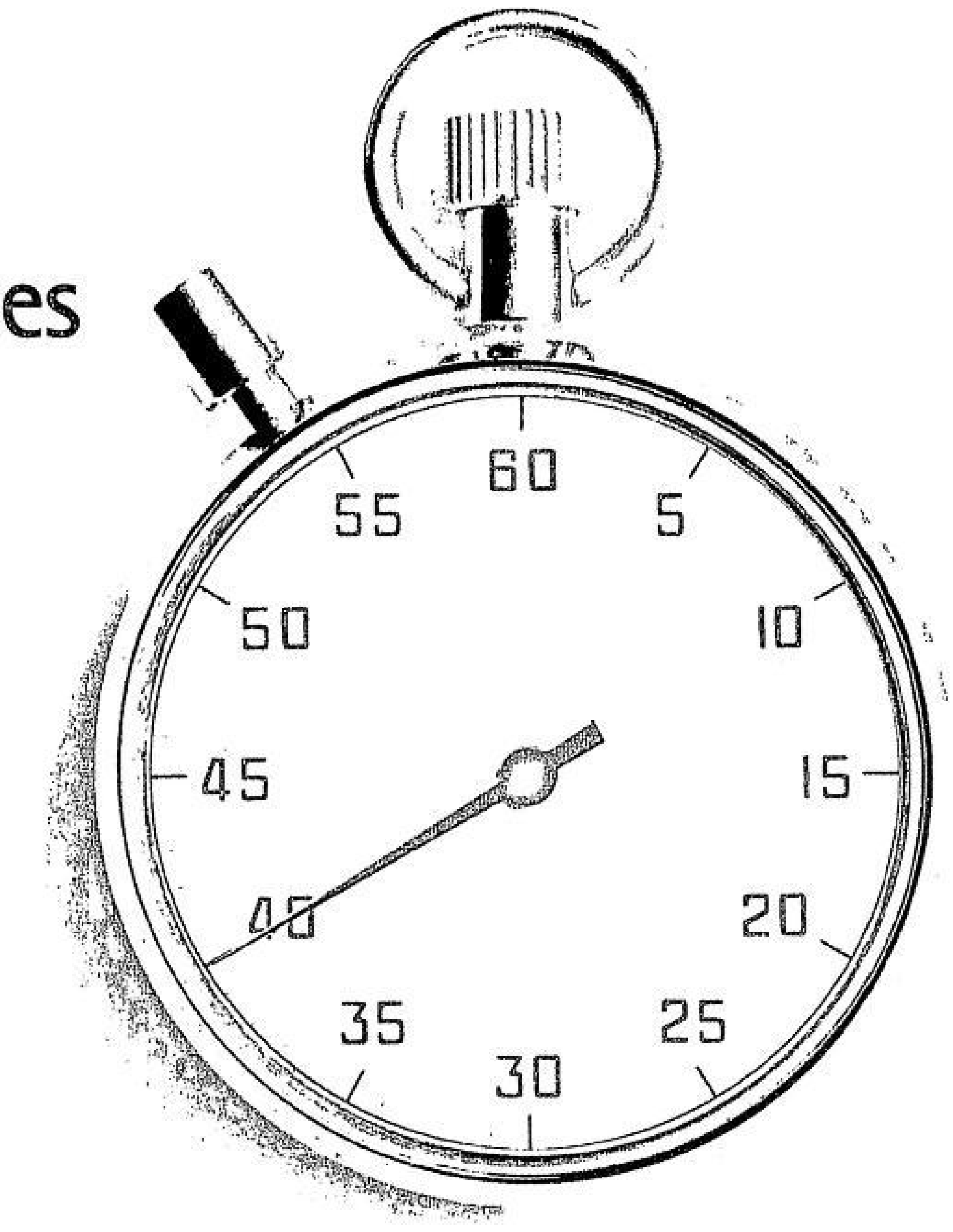

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INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

DECEMBER 10, 2006

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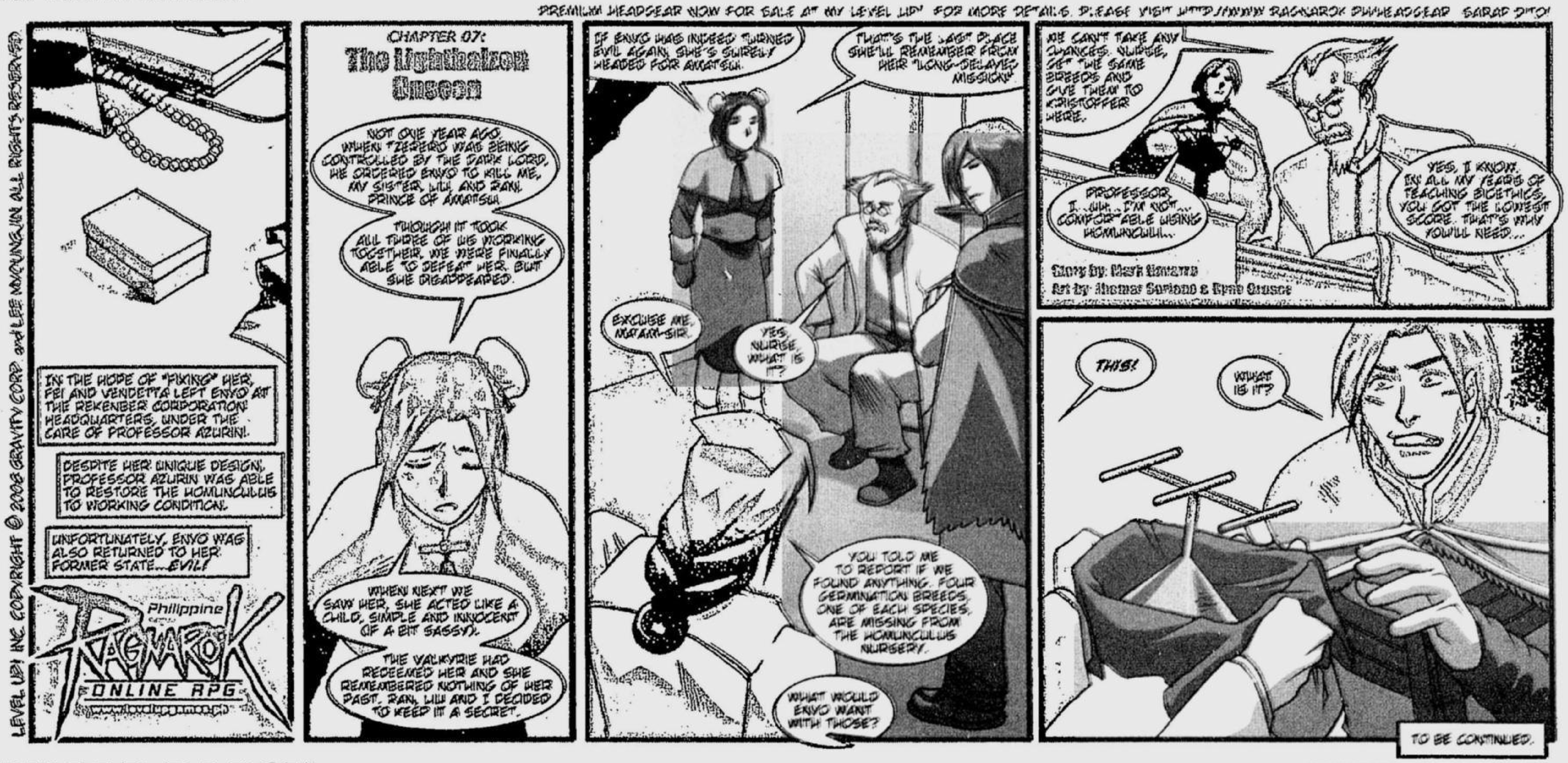
RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL UP GAMES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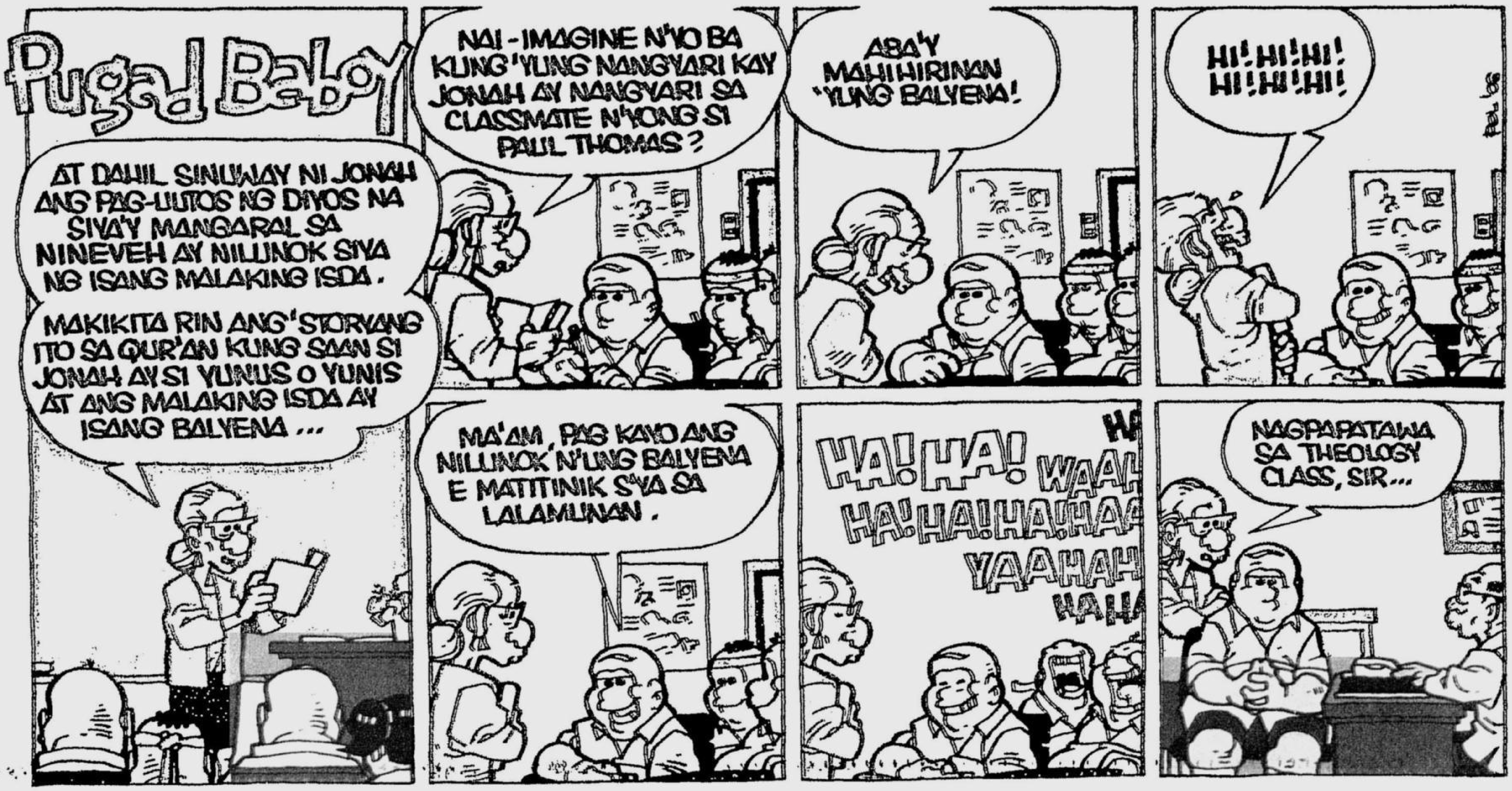
LEVEL UP! INC. COPYRIGHT © 2006 GRAVITY CORP. and LEE MYOUNGJIN. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
IN THE HOPE OF "FIXING" HER, FEI AND VENDETTA LEFT ENYO AT THE REKENBER CORPORATION HEADQUARTERS, UNDER THE CARE OF PROFESSOR AZURINI.
DESPITE HER UNIQUE DESIGN, PROFESSOR AZURIN WAS ABLE TO RESTORE THE HOMUNCULUS TO WORKING CONDITION.
UNFORTUNATELY, ENYO WAS ALSO RETURNED TO HER FORMER STATE... EVIL!
Philippine RAGNAROK ONLINE RPG
www.levelupgames.ph
CHAPTER 07:
The Lighthalzen Unseen
NOT ONE YEAR AGO, WHEN TZERERO WAS BEING CONTROLLED BY THE DARK LORD, HE ORDERED ENYO TO KILL ME, MY SISTER, LILI AND RAN, PRINCE OF AMATSU.
THOUGH IT TOOK ALL THREE OF US WORKING TOGETHER, WE WERE FINALLY ABLE TO DEFEAT HER. BUT SHE DISAPPEARED.
WHEN NEXT WE SAW HER, SHE ACTED LIKE A CHILD, SIMPLE AND INNOCENT (IF A BIT SASSY).
THE VALKYRIE HAD REDEEMED HER AND SHE REMEMBERED NOTHING OF HER PAST. RAN, LILI AND I DECIDED TO KEEP IT A SECRET.
IF ENYO HAS INDEED TURNED EVIL AGAIN, SHE'S SURELY HEADED FOR AMATSU.
THAT'S THE LAST PLACE SHE'LL REMEMBER FROM HER "LONG-DELAYED MISSION".
EXCUSE ME, MA'AM-SIR.
YES, NURSE, WHAT IS IT?
YOU TOLD ME TO REPORT IF WE FOUND ANYTHING. FOUR GERMINATION BREEDS, ONE OF EACH SPECIES, ARE MISSING FROM THE HOMUNCULUS NURSERY.
WHAT WOULD ENYO WANT WITH THOSE?
WE CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES. NURSE, GET THE SAME BREEDS AND GIVE THEM TO KRISTOFFER HERE.
PROFESSOR, I... UH... I'M NOT... COMFORTABLE USING HOMUNCULI...
YES, I KNOW. IN ALL MY YEARS OF TEACHING BIOETHICS, YOU GOT THE LOWEST SCORE. THAT'S WHY YOU'LL NEED...
Story by: Mark Navarro
Art by: Jhomar Soriano & Ryan Orosco
THIS!
WHAT IS IT?
TO BE CONTINUED.

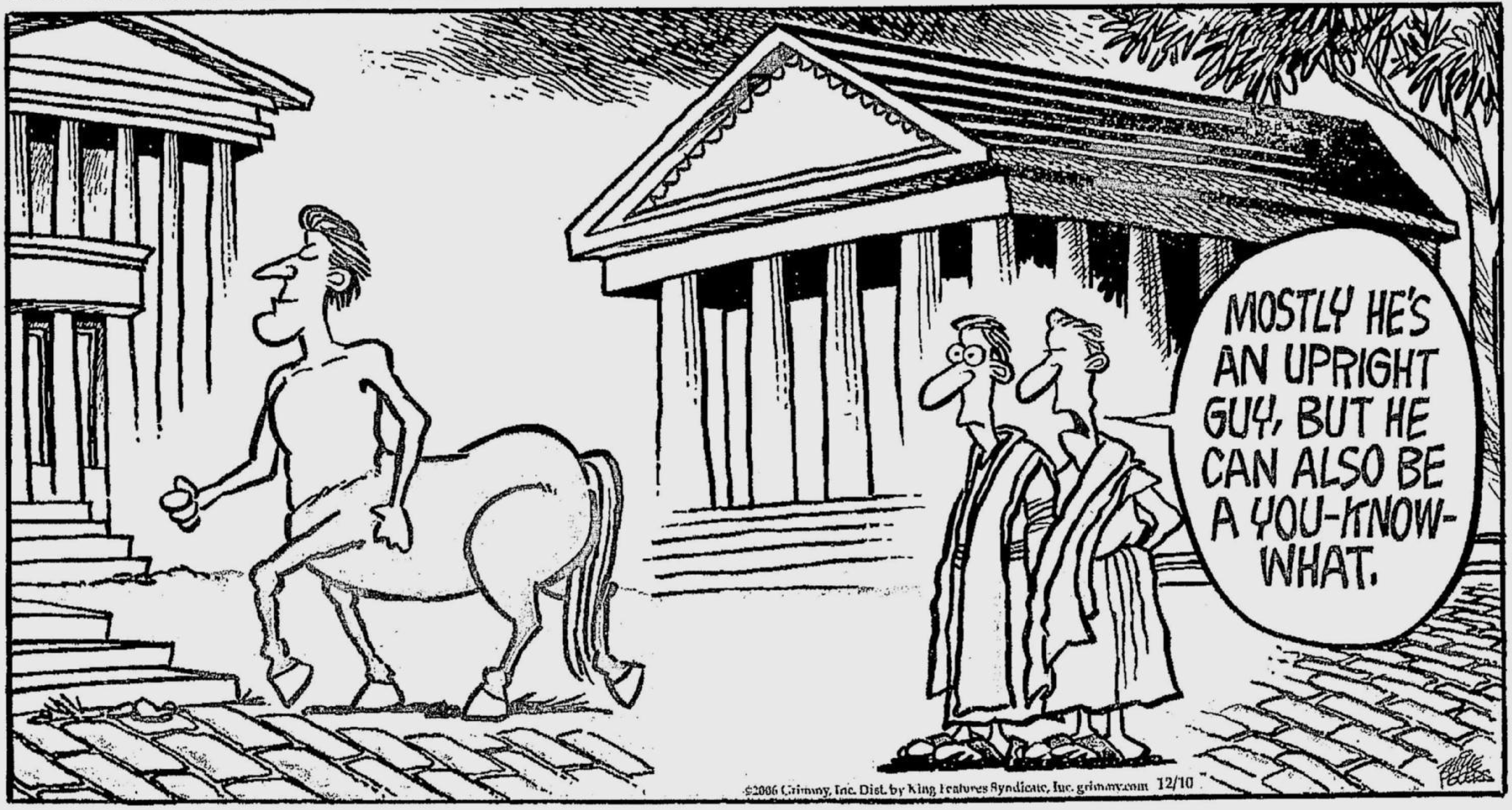
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


Pugad Baboy
AT DAHIL SINUWAY NI JONAH ANG PAG-UUTOS NG DIYOS NA SIYA'Y MANGARAL SA NINEVEH AY NILUNOK SIYA NG ISANG MALAKING ISDA.
MAKIKITA RIN ANG 'STORYANG ITO SA QUR'AN KUNG SAAN SI JONAH AY SI YUNUS O YUNIS AT ANG MALAKING ISDA AY ISANG BALYENA ...
NAI-IMAGINE N'YO BA KUNG 'YUNG NANGYARI KAY JONAH AY NANGYARI SA CLASSMATE N'YONG SI PAUL THOMAS?
ABA'Y MAHIHIRINAN 'YUNG BALYENA!
HI! HI! HI! HI! HI! HI!
MA'AM, PAG KAYO ANG NILUNOK N'UNG BALYENA E MATITINIK S'YA SA LALAMUNAN.
HA! HA! WAAH HA! HA! HA! HAA YAAHAH HA HA
NAGPAPATAWA SA THEOLOGY CLASS, SIR...

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


MOSTLY HE'S AN UPRIGHT GUY, BUT HE CAN ALSO BE A YOU-KNOW-WHAT.
MIKE PETERS
12/10

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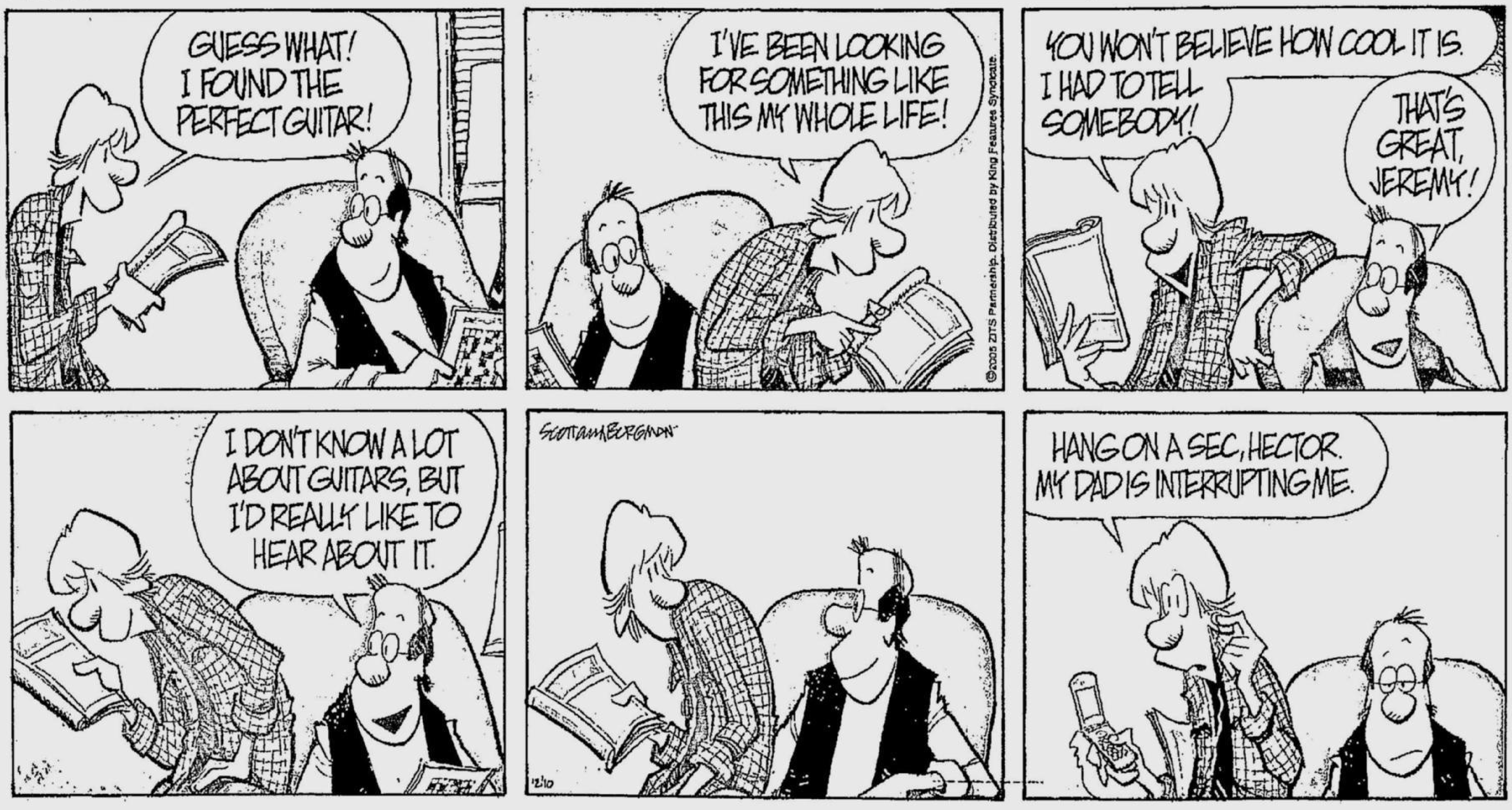
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


GUESS WHAT! I FOUND THE PERFECT GUITAR!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS MY WHOLE LIFE!
YOU WON'T BELIEVE HOW COOL IT IS. I HAD TO TELL SOMEBODY!
THAT'S GREAT, JEREMY!
I DON'T KNOW A LOT ABOUT GUITARS, BUT I'D REALLY LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT IT.
SCOTT and BORGMAN
12/10
HANG ON A SEC, HECTOR. MY DAD IS INTERRUPTING ME.

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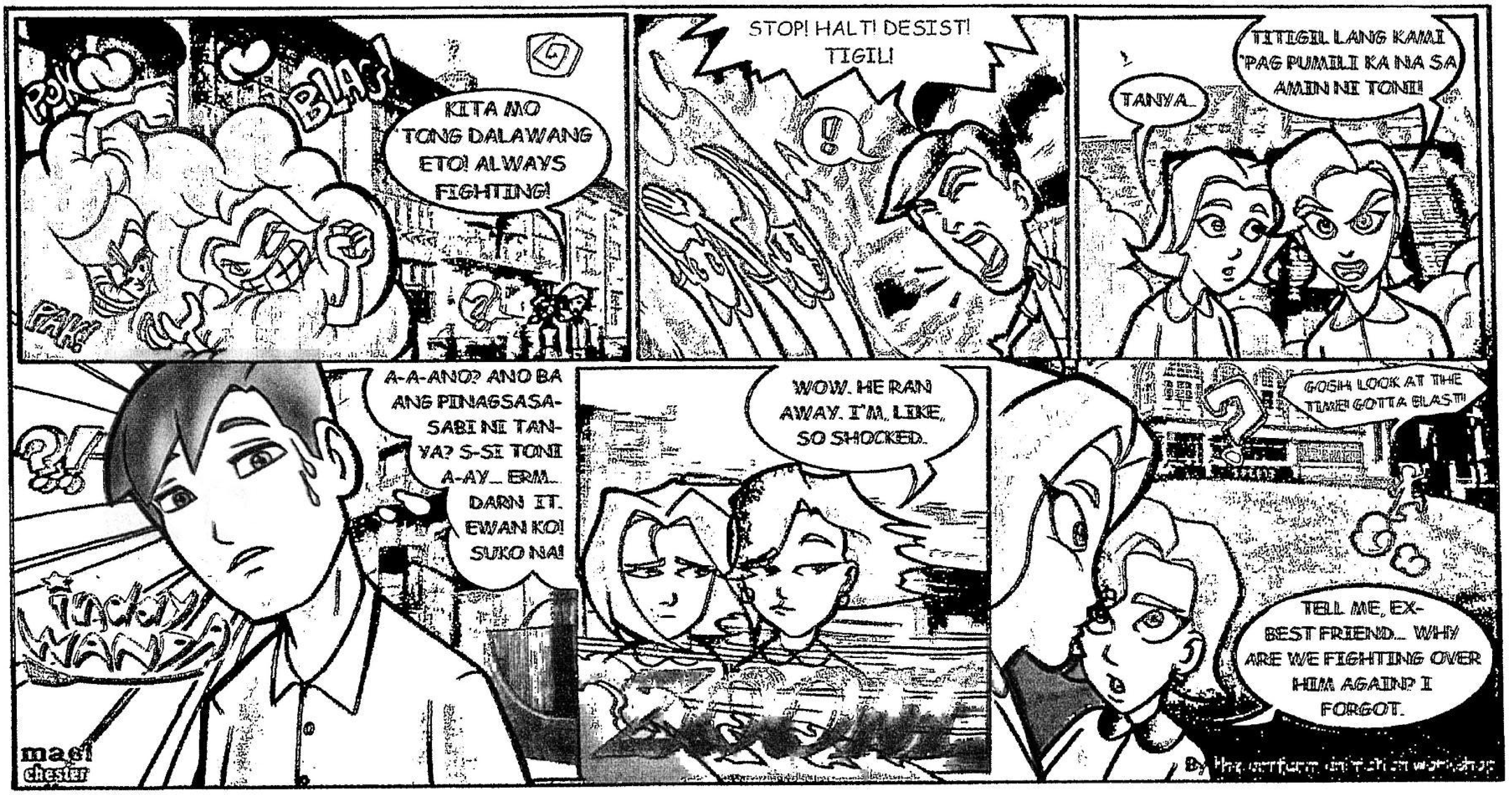
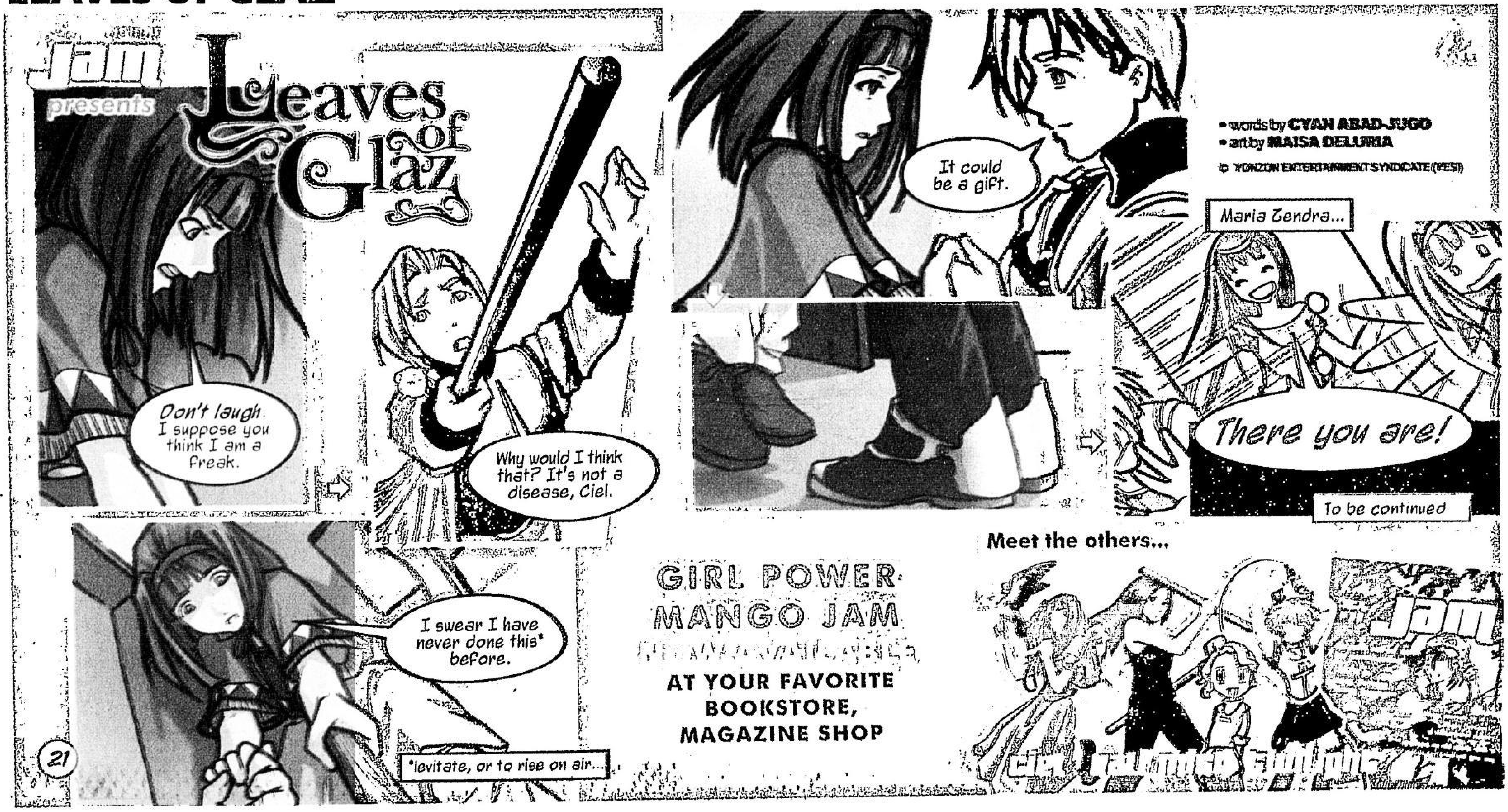
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


POK!
BLAG!
PAK!
KITA MO 'TONG DALAWANG ETO! ALWAYS FIGHTING!
STOP! HALT! DESIST! TIGIL!
!
TANYA...
TITIGIL LANG KAMI 'PAG PUMILI KA NA SA AMIN NI TONI!
?!
A-A-ANO? ANO BA ANG PINAGSASASABI NI TANYA? S-SI TONI A-AY... ERM... DARN IT. EWAN KO! SUKO NA!
Inday WANDA
WOW. HE RAN AWAY. I'M, LIKE, SO SHOCKED.
?
GOSH LOOK AT THE TIME! GOTTA BLAST!
TELL ME, EX-BEST FRIEND... WHY ARE WE FIGHTING OVER HIM AGAIN? I FORGOT.
mael chester

LEAVES OF GLAZ

BY MANGO COMICS


Jam presents
Leaves of Glaz
Don't laugh. I suppose you think I am a freak.
Why would I think that? It's not a disease, Ciel.
It could be a gift.
Maria Zendra...
There you are!
To be continued
I swear I have never done this* before.
*levitate, or to rise on air...
21
Jam

• words by CYAN ABAD-JUGO
• art by MAISA DELURIA

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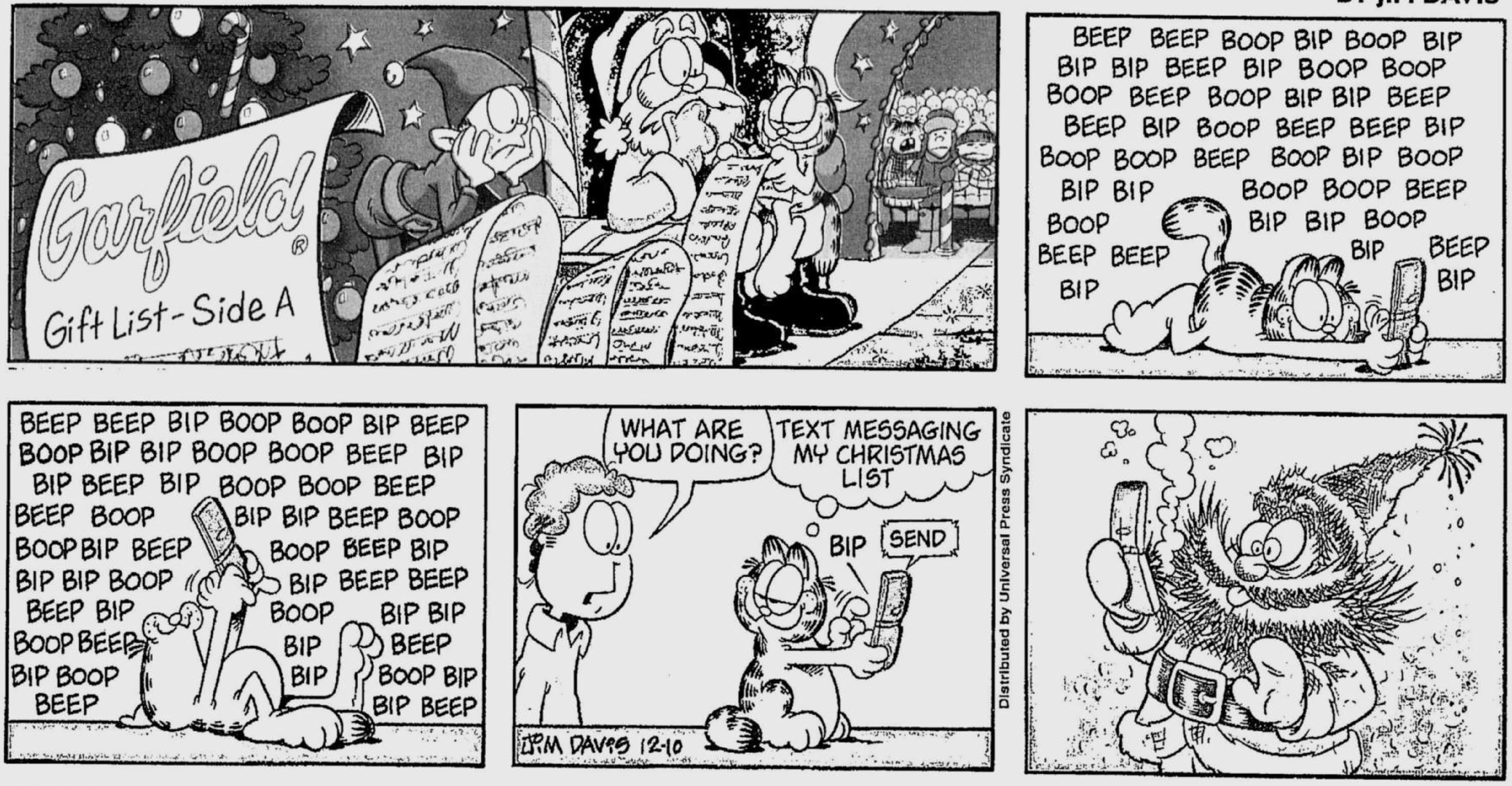
Meet the others...

GIRL POWER
MANGO JAM
[illegible]
AT YOUR FAVORITE
BOOKSTORE,
MAGAZINE SHOP

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


Garfield®
Gift List - Side A
BEEP BEEP BOOP BIP BOOP BIP BIP BIP BEEP BIP BOOP BOOP BOOP BEEP BOOP BIP BIP BEEP BEEP BIP BOOP BEEP BEEP BIP BOOP BOOP BEEP BOOP BIP BOOP BIP BIP BOOP BOOP BEEP BOOP BIP BIP BOOP BEEP BEEP BIP BEEP BIP BIP
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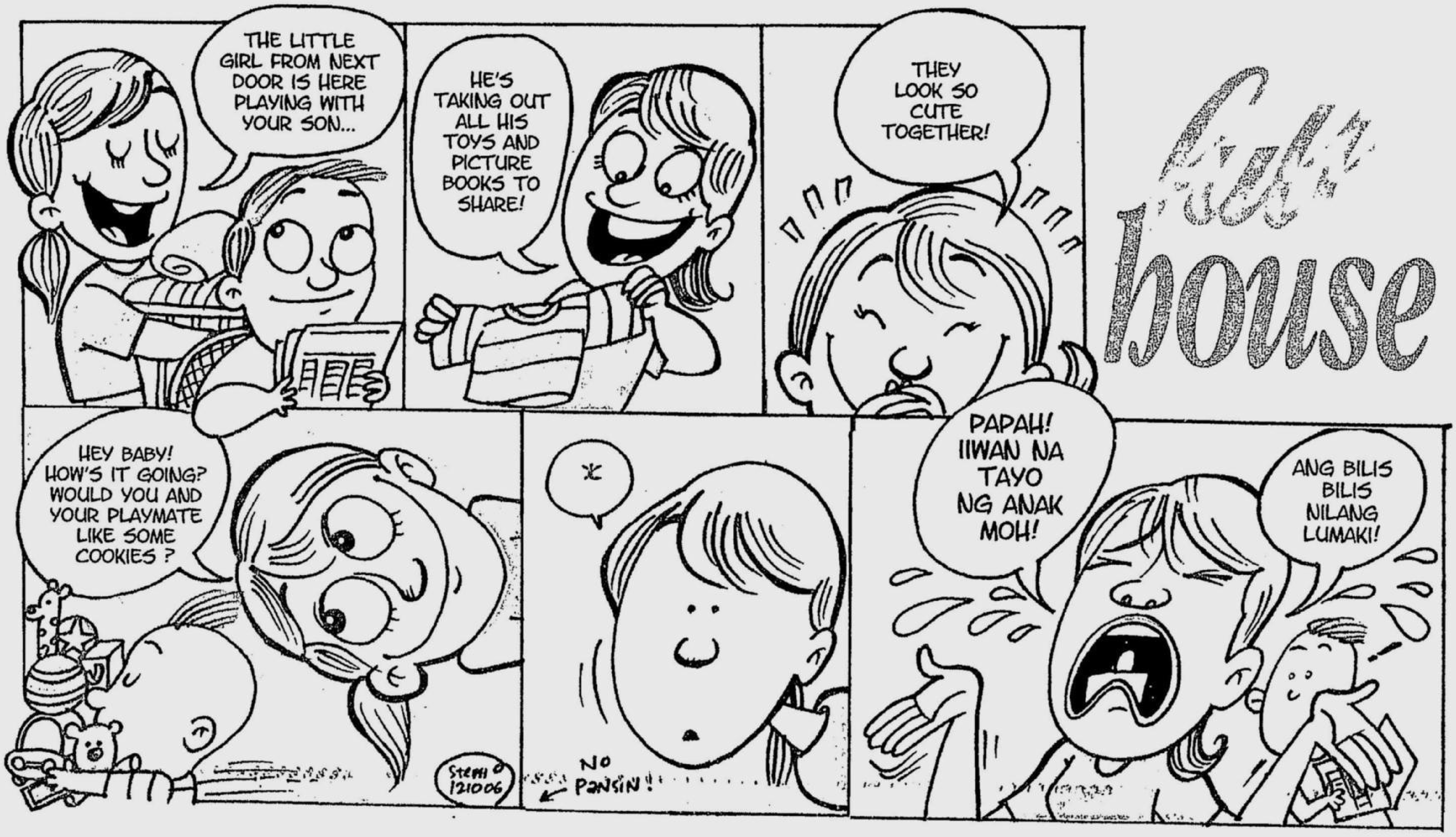
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
TEXT MESSAGING MY CHRISTMAS LIST
BIP
SEND
JIM DAVIS 12-10

Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


full house
THE LITTLE GIRL FROM NEXT DOOR IS HERE PLAYING WITH YOUR SON...
HE'S TAKING OUT ALL HIS TOYS AND PICTURE BOOKS TO SHARE!
THEY LOOK SO CUTE TOGETHER!
HEY BABY! HOW'S IT GOING? WOULD YOU AND YOUR PLAYMATE LIKE SOME COOKIES ?
STEPH 121006
NO PANSIN!
PAPAH! IIWAN NA TAYO NG ANAK MOH!
ANG BILIS BILIS NILANG LUMAKI!

sundayINQUIRERmagazine

December 10, 2006

FREE

New Treats from Old Feasts

Chef Joanne Limoanco shows how to keep the party going way past Christmas with delicious recipes for Noche Buena leftovers

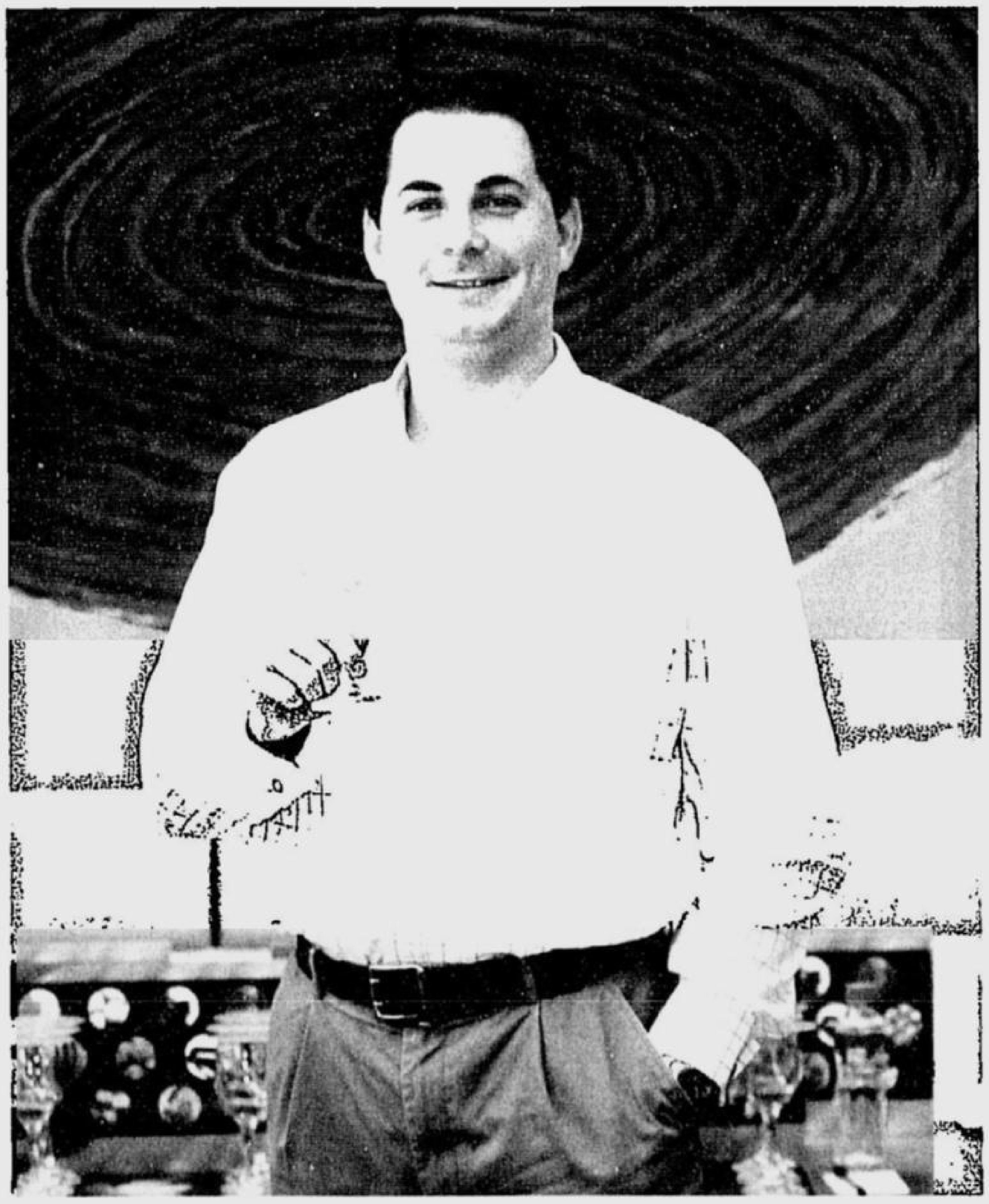
PLUS: 17 must-haves for the essential pantry • Demystifying whisky • A 'tocino' family tradition • The coming of Krispy Kreme • Love that 'lechon,' and more

By Leica R. Carpo
Photographs by Jim Guiao Punzalan

Whisky 101 Straight Up

Demystifying a complex, historic libation, with the help of an expert

LONG considered one of the most popular spirits in the world, whisky or whiskey has been rumored to put hair on one's chest, cure a heavy cold and be the libation of choice of everyone from Queen Victoria to former President Erap. First distilled in the 1400s, it has lost none of its intoxicating appeal. With subtle variations in its basic natural ingredients (water, cereal and malt), bottle age statements and over 2,500 known brands, often with hard-to-pronounce names like Laphroaig, Dailuane and Teaninich, even a whisky connoisseur would be hard pressed to keep abreast, much less your average drinker.



James Maxwell of Chivas Brothers

Do you really know your whisky/whiskey? Can you tell the difference between Scotch, Bourbon, Canadian, Corn, Irish, Rye, Tennessee and Moonshine? Do the terms single malt, blended/pure malt, single grain scotch and blended whiskies make any kind of sense to you? Tackling the entire encyclopedia of whiskies would take too long and probably put us all to sleep, so let's start from the top with Scotch whisky considered by most to be the premium spirit of the bunch, with a reputation for being both the most drinkable and unfortunately also the steepest priced of the lot.

To unravel the mysteries of whiskies in general and Scotch whisky in particular, James Maxwell—call him the Chivas Brothers' ambassador—gamely helps SIM demystify the ancient spirits' cult following. Working for a company like Chivas Brothers, which was founded in Scotland in 1801 and currently producing a third of the scotch whiskies in the world—approximately 20 million casks, he says—he can tell which whiskies are theirs in a blindfolded taste test. This is quite impressive, until you find out that Chivas Regal's "master blender" Colin Scott (the man responsible for ensuring that the Chivas Regal you drank 30 years ago tastes the same today, and will taste the same 30 years from today) can tell the whiskies' region, age and distillery by the whisky's smell alone.

Unlike wine, there is no right or wrong way to drink whisky. If you need to water it down, spring water with no chlorine is recommended. Ice, soda water and other mixers may also mask the whisky's true flavors. So if you want to be a purist, drinking it "neat" is best. That said, Maxwell says green tea and whisky can be quite a treat.

How to choose a whisky to drink? Whisky, like wine, can be judged by color, bouquet and flavor. The more mature the whisky, the darker the color, as it is aged in recycled wooden casks of Spanish sherry or American bourbon. Unlike wine, whisky once bottled doesn't age, though an older age statement on a bottle of whisky usually corresponds to a higher price tag.

In general, all scotch whiskies are aged a minimum of three years, though most distillers usually average five to eight years for their standard bottles which range from **standard** (three to 12 years) to **premium** (12-15) and **super premium** (15-30). To fast-track choice, you can base your choice on the distilleries' region and find the "whisky style" you prefer. The four regions in Scotland are the **Highlands** (spicy, robust, complex), **Lowlands** (soft, sweet, gentle), **Speyside** (fruity, floral, honey) and **Islay** (powerful, robust, smoky).

Is price a good gauge to tell a good whisky from an inferior one? "Aside from the fact that the liquid is clear and unclouded, containing no floating impediments, price can be a useful indicator," says Maxwell. "But at the

(continued on page 13)

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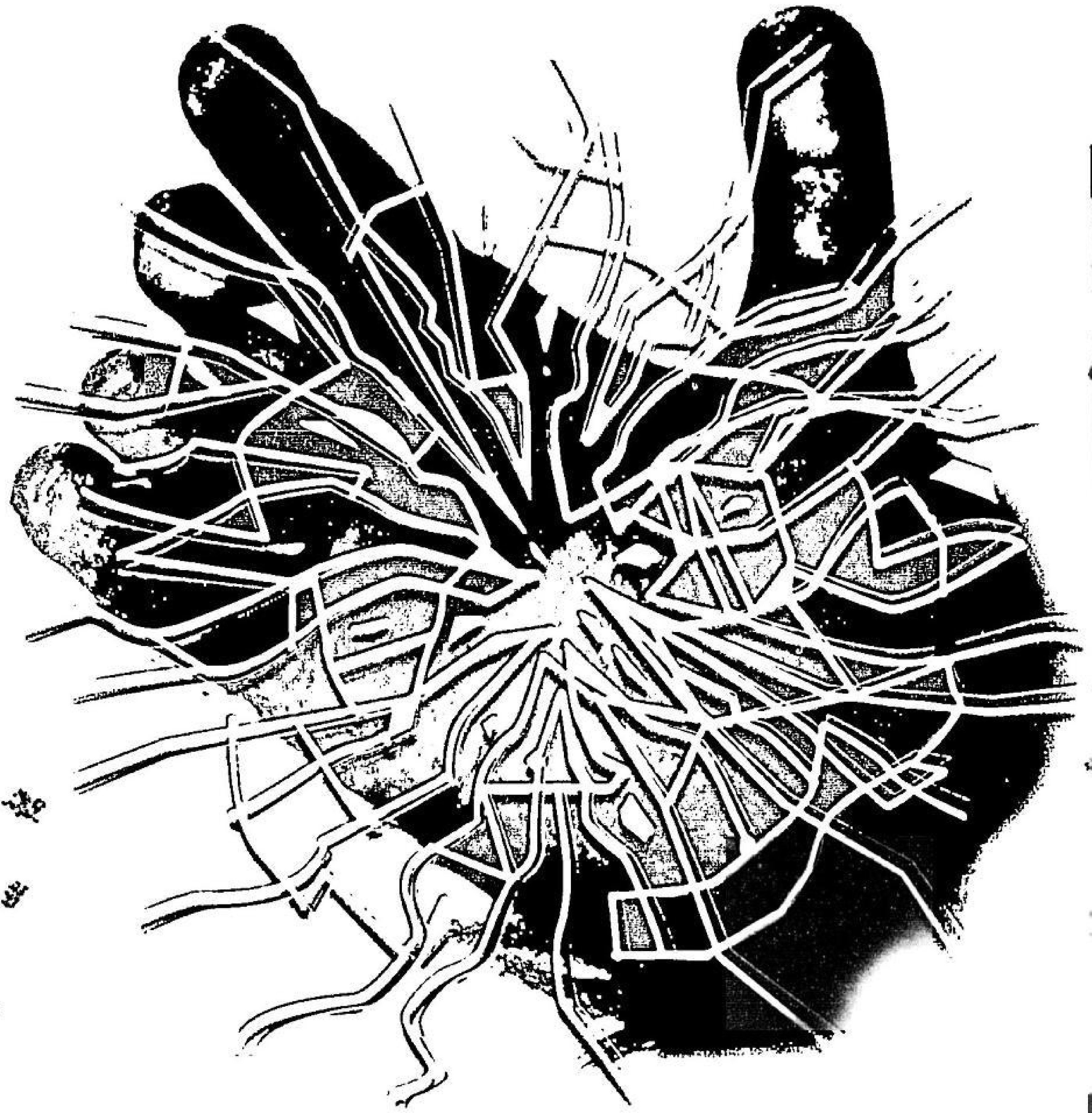

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Carbocisteine Solmux HANAPIN ANG BAKAS! NEWS FLASH

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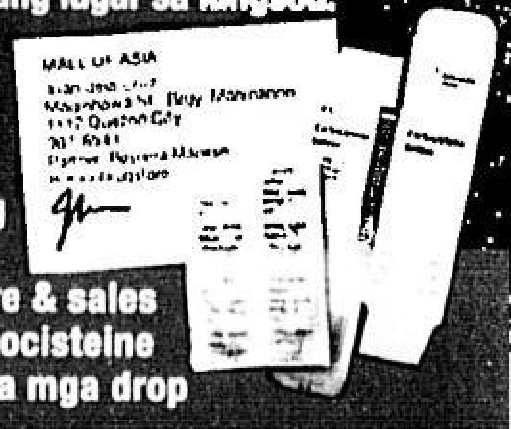

② Isulat ang lugar kung saan nakita ang bakas, pangalan ninyo, address, telephone number at partner drugstore & sales clerk sa isang papel. Lakipan ng Carbocisteine Solmux carton o foil strips at ihulog sa mga drop boxes ng mga piling drugstores.

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   - Or proof of purchase of the items above
   - At least three-fourths of the pack must be intact to qualify for the raffle promo
2. On the back side of the carton, receipt or sheet of paper (when needed), write the following:
   - Name, address, contact number, and signature
   - Answer to the promo question *"Saan nahanap ang bakas nang gorilya?"* (e.g. Answer: TV Commercial – no wrong answer)
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   c/o SPANK!
   15th floor, Rufino Tower
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4. Promo date is from October 1 – December 3, 2006
5. A winner can win only once. Should the winner's name be drawn again, he/she will be eligible to forfeit the prize of lower value in lieu of a bigger prize
6. All non-winners of the 1st and 2nd draws are still eligible for the Grand Prize of P500,000.00
7. All winners will be notified via telegram and grand draw to be televised. Prizes unclaimed within 60 days from the date of receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of Unilab, Inc. with approval from BFAD
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9. All employees of Unilab, their agencies / third party suppliers, and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promo

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1 Grand Prize Winner of P 500,000.00

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by **Margaux Salcedo**
Photographs by August de la Cruz

YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, 'BABOY'!

The 'lechon' rules the Filipino fiesta table

Piggin' out: 'Pritchon' and its sauces; below, the Esguerras with their U.S. and Philippine patents

AMBETH Ocampo wrote, "If food defines who we are, it may be a way to catch that elusive thing we call national identity." Could our identity then be reflected by our fiesta favorite, the *lechon*, heralded by some as our national food? After all, as food historian Doreen Fernandez observed, it occupies the "place of honor" at the festive table during the "universal Philippine feast" we call the fiesta. Indeed, we Filipinos are all accustomed to the sight of a roasted pig's head at the center of the buffet, good-humoredly biting a bright red apple, as we dig in to enjoy its skin, meat and fat on celebrations like Christmas, New Year's, weddings and other joyous occasions.

Legendary chef Myrna Segismundo, in the book "Slow Food," very comprehensively narrated the various takes on *lechon* in the Philippines' different regions:

"In the Southern Tagalog provinces of Batangas, Laguna, and Cavite, *lechon* is stuffed with either *alibangbang* or banana leaves…The Visayans use a variety of stuffing. It's leeks, garlic, lemongrass (*tanglad*), tamarind leaves and salt in Negros Oriental. Leyte stuffs its pigs with pepper, shallots, leeks and lemongrass. Cebu uses combinations such as star anise, pepper … and chives with some 7-Up poured into the mixture. … In Mindanao, particularly in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan City, red bell peppers, leeks, garlic, sugar, and lemongrass are used as stuffing. It's also interesting to note that Pepsi is used to bathe the pig in order to give the *lechon* a good finish…."

Whichever part of the country, though, the general procedure leading to spit-roasting the pig is the same.

Louie Vargas, quite the *lechon* connoisseur from Bulacan, shared with me the pig's sad plight, truly a horrifying tale: A hole is bored into the pig's neck to kill it by making its blood spill. It is then skinned, i.e., its hair or *balahibo* shaved off, and then cleaned, i.e., its innards taken out. Once cleaned, it is stuffed with leaves and the other stuffing narrated above, varying from province to province.

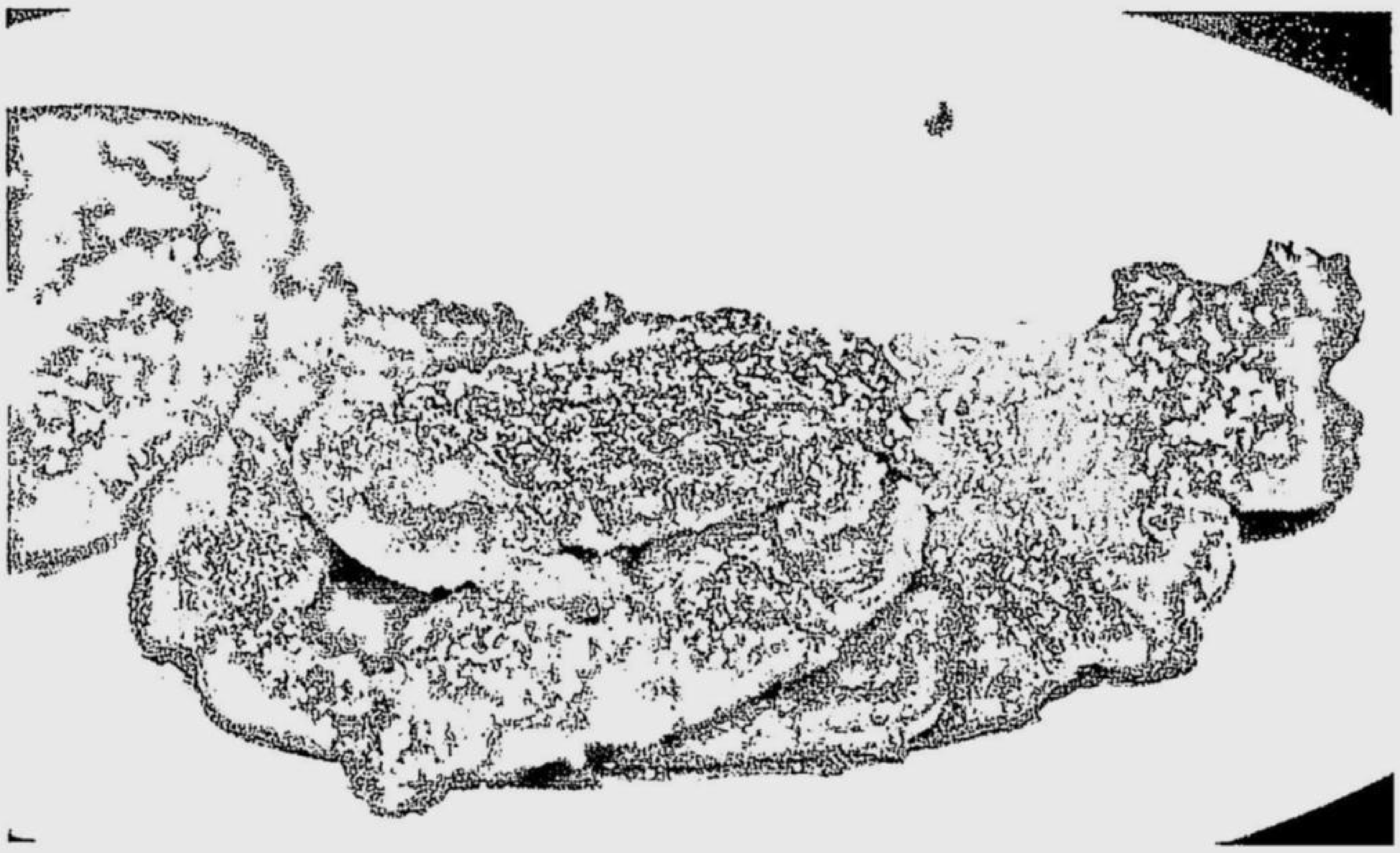
Once stuffed, the pig is sewn back up and a *kawayan* or bamboo stick is literally stuck up its behind and through its mouth, its legs tied around the stick. Spit roasting *(nili-lechon)* then usually lasts around two hours for a 30- to 40-kilogram pig. While roasting, they brush, wipe or bathe the pig with the *timpla* or *timplado* (recipes also vary) which helps make the skin more red and more crispy. It is fascinating to note the use of softdrinks to enhance the color of the *lechon*. In Zambales, I am told, they use milk and vetsin. Once the pig turns from white to a reddish brown, it is ready for its "place of honor" at the fiesta table.

In 2002, an ingenious entrepreneur, Charlie Esguerra, realized that a way to make the *lechon* a commodity for an upscale A-B market was to tweak this traditional procedure. He invented his own version of the *lechon*, using a process he has patented both here and in the United States (wannabes, be forewarned!). Instead of roasting a full-grown pig, he deep-fries a six-week old suckling pig or *biik*, creating something he has labeled *pritchon*, short for *piniritong lechon* (fried roasted pig—I know it sounds redundant, but it is just deep-fried, not roasted). The result is really a kind of gourmet *lechon* which is not as fat-laden and whose skin is delicate and crispier than ordinary lechon. Esguerra

By **Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz**

A Sweet Life from Sweet Meat

The pioneers behind the hugely successful Pampanga's Best foods, purveyors of the original 'tocino,' have built a low-profile family empire through hard work and filial respect- -and love of their 'tocino'



LONG before McNuggets and hotdogs became lunchbox staples, school kids scarfed down *tocino* and *longganisa*, perennial childhood favorites that announced their pedigree with their strong taste and brilliant reddish color.

Always contrary, children then and now prefer store-bought provisions over home-cooked meals, with processed meats proving to be the handy alternative for harassed homemakers.

More than just childhood nostalgia, however, *tocino* had meant family survival for Lolita Olalia-Hizon, 69, the woman behind Pampanga's Best line of food that includes hotdogs, *tapa*, ham, meat loaf, corned beef, Pampango delicacies like *balo-balo* and *sisig*, and more recently, pastries and peanut products.

Life had been easy for Lolita, one of 14 children of an enterprising couple from Cabalantian, Bacolor, Pampanga. "Tatang engaged in the buying and selling of sugar, pig feed (*darak*), fodder and mangoes," recalls this former teacher at St. Scholastica's in San Fernando, Pampanga.

But the war meant a reversal of fortune for the Olalias. Recounts Lolita: "We had a comfortable life until the Japanese Occupation, when we were forced to move to a small farm. It was there that Tatang engaged in poultry-raising and growing mangoes." Soon enough, her mother was turning the mangoes and squash they harvested into candies and pastries that the 10-year-old Lolita would deliver to storeowners in a nearby school. Occasionally, she adds, "I would earn some coins for my effort."

The familys relocation also meant living very close to a river, where Lolita spent hours fishing. "I caught different fishes, frogs, shrimps and shellfish, which I cooked myself. At the age of 10, I could sense Ima's pride in seeing that I had culinary talent. Later, the training would prove helpful in our meat processing business.

Turning problems into prospects might as well define Lolita's life. As a young wife, she and husband Angelo, whom she had met while she was teaching in 1956, had invested in a gasoline service business and a small canteen that served truck drivers 24 hours a day. Things were fine until 1972, when 40 days of flood literally sank the family business. "We were forced to move out of our place and into an unfinished house that had one bedroom and a kitchen that also served as the dining room. By then we had nine children, but I had to let go of our three maids and do everything myself. We had no money, no savings and no income, and the bills were starting to come in."

Lolita prayed for cash: "Lord, give me much money so that we can pay our debts and bring up the children beautiful in Your sight according to Your will. And, Lord, with the excess, we can help the needy."

It seemed to work. Lolita recalls exactly how Pampanga's Best started: "One day after lunch, a neighbor came along with about five kilos of ham leg or *pigue*. She wasn't able to sell it, so she wanted to put it in our freezer to sell the next day. I told her to slice it for me and I would buy it. I then remembered Ima's way of processing meat in my childhood, and I did just that, adding a few ingredients of my own. The next day, I gave back the meat—now neatly packed in one-kilo bags—to my neighbor for her to sell for me. By Divine Providence, it sold easily, and I even got my first order for 50 kilos. Meat vendors also became curious about the new product and placed their orders. Soon others followed suit, and I had to name my product. I called it *tocino*, meaning processed sweet meat. And I thought, this is God working miraculously!"

ied page

Huile
Arôme
Truffe

Truffle oil, P863

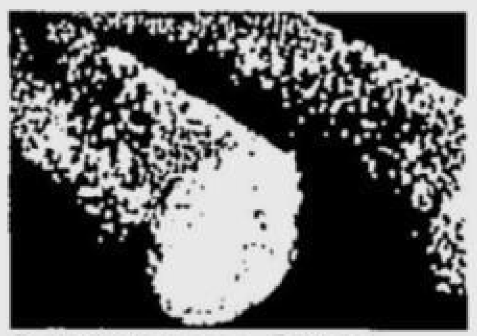
Rye bread, multigrain bread, P67/P81

Edmond Fallot
MOUTARDE EN GRAINS

Mustard, P223

Dried mushrooms, P158

Spitzmorcheln (salami), P492



Salchichon, P492

By **Chef J Gamboa**
Photographs by Jim Guiao Punzalan
All food from Santi's Delicatessen
Special thanks to Ms. Tess Schweitzer

THE ESSENTIAL PANTRY

The culinary hotshot behind Cirkulo and the enduring Milky Way restaurants tells us what you just have to have in your kitchen to look like a pro

Sun-dried tomatoes, P79

Mixed olives, from P67 to P170

Exotic rice, P197

Extra virgin olive oil, P634

Green Valley
caperber

Cocktail olives, P170; caper berries, P234

Sherry vinegar, P457

PINE KERNELS
100grams

Pine kernels (pine nuts), P209

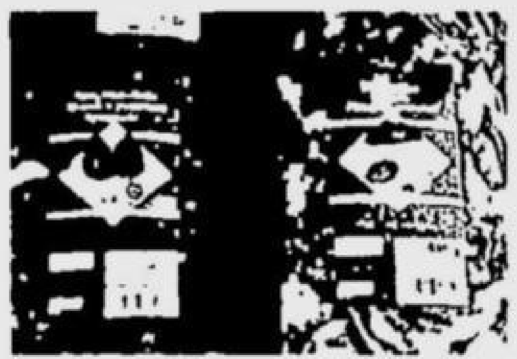
TAITTINGER

Champagne, P2,417

PEOPLE have the misconception that chefs eat caviar, *foie gras* and Wagyu beef and drink rosé champagne when at home. This could not be farther from the truth. Most chefs, after a long day in the kitchen preparing their repertoire of treats for their guests, only need a cheeseburger, *daing na bangus* or *sinigang na baboy* to complete their day. However, when the need arises to prepare something for impromptu guests, a few essential pantry items can get you through.

Acacia honey and mountain bee honey, P249

And in case you don't cook at all, just having these in your kitchen will make you look like a pro!



Dried mushrooms, P158

1. Olive oil—If you don't really cook at home, keep the olive oil in the refrigerator. It will last longer and be ready when you need it. Get a nice fruity one.

2. Balsamic vinegar—for dressings and mixing with olive oil as a dip for crusty bread.

3. Sherry vinegar—for tasty salad dressings, use honey as sweetener.

4. Honey—great with some brie or gorgonzola cheese.

5. Pine nuts—quite pricey nuts, but great for sprinkling over salad or pasta for texture. And store in the ref. A little goes a long way.

Gourmet salt, P148

6. Good quality canned tomatoes—whole peeled, diced or crushed, not tomato sauce.

7. Olives—Get some kalamatas or Green Queens at the deli. Transfer to a glass jar and store with their brine in the ref.

8. Capers—Refrigerate after opening. If you can find those with stems, called caperberries, even better.

9. Sun-dried tomatoes—either in oil or dry. If you're using the dry ones, place in a bowl and pour some hot water to cover. Let soak for a few minutes until soft, then cut to desired size.

10. Good dry pasta—Any shape you like is fine. Barilla and De Cecco brands are preferred.

11. *Arborio* or *vialone* rice—in case you want to make a quick risotto.

12. Saffron—if you want to make that risotto ala Milanese

13. Dried mushrooms—Morels or cepes keep forever. Place in bowl and pour hot water over until plump and softened. Strain soaking liquid and use in cooking.

14. Truffle oil—a few drops of this on pasta or risotto will make you look like a three-star chef

15. Good bread—get your favorite loaf at Le Coeur de France (Baguette, Country), wrap in foil, then place in a Ziplock bag. Make sure you take out as much air as possible before sealing. And freeze in the deepest part of the freezer. To reheat, preheat oven to 350 degrees, take bread out of the freezer, rub frozen bread with a handful of tap water, and bake for about 10 minutes. The water will refresh the bread and make the crust crisp.

16. Good Italian salami or Spanish *salchichon*—these are cured and preserved meats, ergo they last a long time in the ref. And easy to serve, too; just peel the casing and slice.

17. Champagne—it's not a party without bubbles. •

Canned cherry tomatoes, P55

Spaghettini, P77; penne tricolore, P129

Essential Pantry Matrix:

olive oil + balsamic vinegar = salad dressing or dip for bread

olive oil + sherry vinegar + honey = salad dressing

olive oil + olives + pine nuts + sun dried tomatoes = pasta sauce

olive oil + good quality canned tomatoes + capers + sun-dried tomatoes + olives + pine nuts + good dry pasta = dinner

olive oil + *arborio* or *vialone* rice + saffron + water + parmesan cheese + butter = risotto Milanese

olive oil + *arborio* or *vialone* rice + dried mushrooms+ soaking liquid + truffle oil = mushroom risotto

olives + good bread + oilve oil + balsamic vinegar+ good Italian salami or Spanish *salchichon* + champagne = PARTY •

PEOPLE have the misconception that chefs eat caviar, *foie gras* and Wagyu beef and drink rosé champagne when at home. This could not be farther from the truth. Most chefs, after a long day in the kitchen preparing their repertoire of treats for their guests, only need a cheeseburger, *daing na bangus* or *sinigang na baboy* to complete their day. However, when the need arises to prepare something for impromptu guests, a few essential pantry items can get you through

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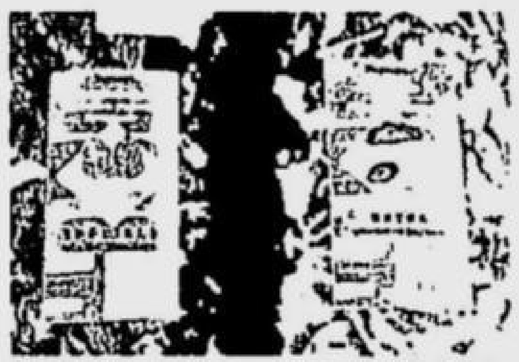
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olives + good bread + oilve oil + balsamic vinegar+ good Italian salami or Spanish *salchichon* + champagne = PARTY •

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

The Woman In The (Hotel) Kitchen

For Dusit Hotel Nikko's young executive sous chef, Joanne Limoanco, food is a real passion

Practical but good: Limoanco presents her wraps stuffed with leftover 'lechon'

JOANNE Limoanco, executive sous chef of the Dusit Hotel Nikko and one of few female chefs occupying such a high position in Manila's competitive hotel scene, came into her profession most serendipitously. "I was planning to enroll in a master's degree program at the Ateneo," recounts this 30-year-old Interdisciplinary Studies graduate of De la Salle University. Then she spotted the Center for Culinary Arts (CCA) on Katipunan Avenue, dropped in, got a tour from a chef-instructor whose enthusiasm and passion impressed her, and enrolled that same afternoon in 1998. Cooking school was "fun but tiring," she recalls. At 5'9", the willowy Limoanco complains that even today, she sometimes gets back pains from leaning over low tables and carrying huge pots.

> **"In school, you really had to be passionate about what you were doing, or it wouldn't make sense to work so hard"**

Luckily, Limoanco had that passion, and by 2000 she was working as a commis or cook in a Katipunan restaurant, The Barn. Hired to open Crepes de France in Rockwell, she underwent training in France, and eventually moved to Dusit Hotel Nikko as a chef de partie or supervising chef three years ago. Today, in the absence of an executive chef or overall boss in the Thai-owned hotel chain's kitchen, Limoanco is the woman in charge. And with the Christmas season upon us, that means being caught in a whirlwind of activities. "The trend now is for a lot of people tend to eat out because there's just too much work for moms or the household help, so we get a lot of bookings for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day," Limoanco says. Good thing Dusit has several excellent outlets, including the Benkay Japanese restaurant, a dining institution, and Benjarong, the flagship Thai restaurant. An Italian restaurant is set to open in time for the holidays.

It also helps that Limoanco was practically born with a ladle in her hand. The eldest of four children in a Filipino-Chinese family, she grew up familiar with her mom's catering business and watching her grandmother cook feasts, and was able to whip up basic Chinese dishes at a young age. "I could survive on my own," she says. "I could do things, but they weren't systematic then. Now I've introduced my family to the use of herbs and other refinements." On the lady chef's time off, she catches up on sleep and goes boxing to stay in shape, "and to de-stress!" she emphasizes.

For those families who won't be visiting the hotels because they still believe in home-cooked meals, Limoanco graciously shared some recipes to make the most of the morning after's debris-the Noche Buena leftovers. "We've got to be practical," she says. "We can't do away with the normal Christmas food like *lechon*, roast beef, or roast turkey, but sometimes we just can't eat it all." Here, Limoanco, who also used to teach culinary arts at La Salle's College of St. Benilde, shares some wonderful things to do with leftover meats—hearty *lechon* wraps, a refreshing beef salad, and a delicious turkey soup that will zap any holiday hangover. "You can keep leftovers for three or four days and save money. If you freeze *lechon* meat, you can keep it for a month. You can even host another party with what's left—just remember to make it look nice again."

Alya B. Honasan

Photographs by Chito Vecina

New Treats from Old Feasts

Chef Joanne Limuanco does wonders with the Noche Buena debris

Vietnamese Beef Salad

WHEN I was younger, waking up Christmas mornings could sometimes be unpleasant for mum and me, after we had just cooked up a storm for Noche Buena the night before. The challenge always lies in how to outdo the previous night's feast and come up with ways of using the leftovers. One golden rule I came up with for leftovers was "Debone and Shred." I would shred the meat from the leftover carcasses of lechon, poultry or beef, and leave the bones to mum to make her cauldrons of stocks for soups.

TURKEY TORTILLA SOUP

—Serves 6

¼ cup Corn oil
100g Red onions, minced
30g Garlic, minced
150g Carrots, brunoise (cut in short strips)
80g Celery, minced
1 tbsp Cumin powder
500g Crushed tomatoes (half of the amount should be blended)
1L Chicken stock
150g Green beans, sliced
80g Red bell peppers
80g Green bell peppers
80g Yellow bell peppers
5g Coriander leaves, minced
5g Basil leaves, minced
5g Cayenne pepper
to taste Salt
to taste Sugar
500g Turkey meat, shredded

Corn/flour tortillas, sliced into strips
Cheddar cheese, grated

1. Heat oil in a saucepot or a cauldron.
2. Sweat onions, garlic, carrots and celery.
3. Add the cumin powder. Stir until fragrant
4. Add the pureed tomatoes and chicken stock
5. Add the other half of the tomatoes.
6. Season the soup with salt, cayenne pepper and sugar
7. Let the soup boil, then add the beans, bell peppers and herbs. Add the shredded turkey meat. Adjust seasoning and let the soup simmer for a few more minutes.
8. Take the pot off the heat. Add the tortilla strips.
9. Ladle the soup into serving bowls and top with grated cheese

VIETNAMESE BEEF SALAD

—Serves 6

—Use thin slices of leftover roast beef for this recipe. If your roast was kept medium, slice the needed amount thinly and give it a quick sauté before adding it to the salad.

For the dressing:

80ml Vietnamese or Thai brand fish sauce
125ml Cane vinegar
125ml Lemon or lime juice
100g Sugar
2 pcs Lemongrass stalks (white part only), minced
2 pcs Red chili, chopped
60ml Water

For the salad:

700g Roast beef slices
2 large pcs Cucumber slices (seeded, sliced diagonally)
1 large White onion, sliced
100g Cherry tomatoes
30g Mint leaves
30g Cilantro or coriander leaves
30g Lemongrass, sliced
20g Red finger chillies, sliced
30g Toasted peanuts, chopped
700g Mixed lettuce greens, washed and spun dry

1. To make dressing: Combine all the ingredients in a saucepan and let simmer until the liquid is slightly syrupy. Adjust seasoning. Set aside, chill until ready to use.
2. In a large bowl, combine the ingredients for the salad except for the mixed lettuce greens.
3. Toss the beef with the dressing. DO NOT overdress the ingredients.
4. Arrange the mixed lettuce greens on a serving plate. They will serve as the "bed" for the salad.
5. Arrange the salad over the lettuce. Serve chilled.

LECHON WRAPS

Aside from making our well-loved paksiw with leftover *lechon*, here are three instant recipes you can make- and probably host another post holiday party. You can use leftover chicken meat, roast beef and even seafood.

THE *ARIBA* WRAP

Spread tortillas with sour cream, top with shredded lettuce, grated cheddar cheese and shredded meat (leftover lechon, chicken or beef) and finally top with homemade tomato salsa. Roll the tortillas and serve warm.

To make tomato salsa: Char some tomatoes over a grill or under a flame. Peel off the skin and remove the seeds. Place the tomatoes in a food processor with minced garlic, red onions, cilantro leaves and red

By **Ruel S. De Vera**
Photographs by Rudy Esperas

An Amazing Glaze

DOUGHNUTS may be known for having a hole in the middle, but the man right at the heart of this imminent doughnut empire is anything but invisible. Jim Trota Fuentebella, 38, is the managing director of the Max's chain of fried chicken restaurants. Driven, good-looking and detail-oriented, Fuentebella is officially the chairman of The Real American Doughnut Company, Inc., the company that holds the Filipino rights to Krispy Kreme, the cult doughnut that has become a virtual worldwide addiction. But he is also the perfect person to spearhead Krispy Kreme's sugar rush into Filipino palates. And it all starts with something he's really good at: organization.

Though Max's and the Real American Doughnut Company, Inc. currently share office space and owners, the two are actually distinct, independent companies. "We want to give credit to the brand, addressing a different market, with a different store setup," Fuentebella explains. "We hired our own personnel and put up our own commissary so that when it grows it has its own identity." But they are both spiritually under the Trota group of companies.

After all, Robert Trota, Max's CEO, is Jim's first cousin. Fuentebella's parents Plaridel and Erlinda were both heavily involved in Max's. "It's thanks to their hard work that we're here today," he explains. He was an artistic child, enjoying drawing and sketching. "When I found out that graphic design was an actual field of work, I was so excited," he says. After leaving the Philippines in 1982, Fuentebella entered eighth grade in the US. He went to the University of San Francisco, as well as the Academy of Art in SF, where he majored in graphic design and minored in business. To this day, he practices his beloved graphic design on the side.

There was never any pressure on the Trota descendants to work for Max's. In 1987, when Fuentebella worked as busboy, cashier and waiter for Max's San Francisco branch, it was purely on his own. "I needed money to spend," he says. "I enjoyed every bit of it." Though he would visit the Philippines every summer, everything changed in 1994, after he finished his studies. "I just felt there was a calling to work for Max's here," he says, thinking of applying what he had learned in school.

He got to work on the marketing side immediately. "The first thing I did was to change the packaging of Max's," he recalls. He worked with various duties, as the job titles among family members were quite fluid. Fuentebella became managing director just as Max's embarked on an ambitious expansion through a four-year franchising plan started in 1998.

Fuentebella was deeply involved in the architectural aspect of the revamp, perhaps fulfilling a long-held wish, as he considers himself a "frustrated architect." Max's now has 117 branches in the Philippines, plus six in the mainland USA and one in Hawaii.

Fuentebella, like anyone who has lived in the US for a long time, was very familiar with the name Krispy Kreme. Founded in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in 1937, Krispy Kreme was known for their glazed doughnuts and coffee. For years, the only way Filipinos got a taste of the Original Glazed doughnuts was when a precious sample, sealed in a Zip-Loc bag, was brought here by a balikbayan. But on July 13, 2006, the parent company announced that the Trotas had indeed acquired the master franchise for the Philippines. Krispy Kreme finds a perfect partner in Max's, which was founded in 1945 by teacher Maximo Gimenez and taken to new heights of familiarity and expansion by the Trota family.

Having seen it in the kitchen in SF, Fuentebella knew that Krispy Kreme was a popular brand, but didn't understand the magic until January 2006, when he took a bite of an original glazed doughnut, piping hot, right off the line. "That made me a believer," he says.

Negotiations had already been running

Fuentebella knew that Krispy K[illegible] m[illegible] was a popular brand, bu[illegible] lidn[illegible] understand the magic unt[illegible] l Janu[illegible] 2006, when he took a bite of an original glazed doughnut. piping ho[illegible] right off the line. "That [illegible] believer," he says

for over two years, but the Trotas won out in the end. The buzz was unbelievable as word soon got out about the plans. The first Krispy Kreme store opened last November 30 off the posh Serendra Piazza, with lines snaking out as far as the eye could see (and the nose could withstand). A security guard confided that people had been asking about the store daily in the month leading to the opening. They had never seen interest like it.

Fuentebella is looking forward to the opening of the second store later this month in SM Megamall. "You can't contest foot traffic," he says. The Real American Doughnut Company, Inc. plans to establish 30 stores in five years. The challenge for Krispy Kreme, despite its pedigree, is manifold. The local doughnut scene isn't without its stalwarts, starting with long-time dominators Dunkin' Donuts and Mister Donut, but also featuring more recent contenders such as Cello's, Hot Loops and Gonuts Donuts, the last widely believed to have followed the Krispy Kreme mold and "preempted" the brand's arrival in the Philippines. Is there room for such a crème-filled presence?

Aside from pointing out the brand's longevity, Fuentebella notes that "there's always room for great-tasting doughnuts. It's multi-sensory. Filipinos love to eat, and smell has a lot to do with what we want. We improved the American designs to appeal to Filipinos." It starts with the viewable "Doughnut Theater," which is the clear, long glass window that shows waiting customers the doughnuts being prepared. "And the smell! When you're in the vicinity of a Krispy Kreme store, it's unmistakable," he enthuses. What Fuentebella intends to do is to craft Krispy Kreme as an experience to be savored, trademark Hotlights (the company's patented neon signs) and all.

As for price, Fuentebella says that the doughnuts retail at P22 (if you buy a dozen) and P30 individually for the Original Glazed, both of which are quite a leap down from the American prices where a single doughnut would retail at the equivalent of close to P50. "We worked a lot on the pricing," he says. "For our group to get it down to that is quite a feat."

Aside from price, the doughnuts and coffee (Krispy Kreme has its signature blend) are exactly the same as what's found abroad. Additionally, Fuentebella have left no doughnut hole unturned as they make sure everything—signage, packaging, etc.—is up to sugar snuff.

All this translates into sleepless nights for Fuentebella as he prepared for their invasion of Philippine soil. Away from the confections, he remains very active, enjoying a game of tennis when he can. He is married to the former Mavis Manotoc, and they have a 2 ½-year-old son. Perhaps the biggest quirk in Fuentebella's mise en scene is his hobby: collecting Eames furniture (the pioneering silhouettes from American designers Charles and Ray Eames).

If you're wondering why there seemed to have been a flood of Krispy Kreme doughnuts the last month or so, that's because Fuentebella was implementing the mandate to distribute thousands of free doughnuts to enslave the local taste buds soonest. He describes their Max's business as being "super," and he believes Krispy Kreme will be hot, figuratively as well as literally. "I hope the Filipino public won't let me down."

Even as his schedule constantly gets filled up, he relishes the work. After all, he chose this life. "My parents never pressured us to work for Max's," he says. "Not even now." That is why his commitment is complete. "And that's why I'm happy," Jim Fuentebella says, his eyes full of zeal, all ready to run rings around any competition.

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	7	1	2					
	8			7				
	5		1					
6			9					
	1	2				4	5	
					6			2
					4		3	
				5			7	
					8	9	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2006 Conceptis Puzzles Dist by King Features Syndicate Inc

Answer to previous puzzle

4	2	5	9	8	7	3	6	1
7	8	6	3	5	1	9	4	2
1	3	9	4	2	6	8	5	7
9	1	2	6	3	4	5	7	8
5	6	8	7	9	2	1	3	4
3	4	7	5	1	8	6	2	9
6	9	4	8	7	3	2	1	5
2	5	3	1	4	9	7	8	6
8	7	1	2	6	5	4	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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You've Come a Long Way, 'Baboy'

adds that they use a baby pig because the taste of its meat is not adulterated, since it doesn't eat feeds yet. The *pritchon* is served with pita bread and a variety of sauces (hoisin, mustard, liver, honey lemon, among others) that his wife Dina makes. It has become such a hit that they are often called to serve *pritchon* at Malacañang and at other high brow events. (An order costs P4,200 but is good for 40 people, comes with 80 to 100 pita slices plus all the sauces, and includes the service of a waiter who can expertly cut the pritchon. Call tel. nos. 921-0405 or 921-0415 or 0918-531-8851; pritchon.com.)

Whatever the stuffing, whatever the procedure, in a large way we Filipinos find common ground with this fiesta staple. The tradition of serving *lechon* during a fiesta or other event reflects our culture of sharing and of opening our homes to guests, whether rich or common folk. It reflects our love for rich textures and contrasting tastes in the palate: the mix of the crispy skin and the gooey fat; the sometimes slightly salty *recados* versus the sometimes sweet *timplado*. Most amusing for me is the tradition of having the pig's head stare at you while eating—a practice I can never explain to foreigners, while being greatly reflective of our sense of humor. But most amazing is the pig. Look at it—after all it's been through, it's still smiling! •

What's your favorite 'lechon'?

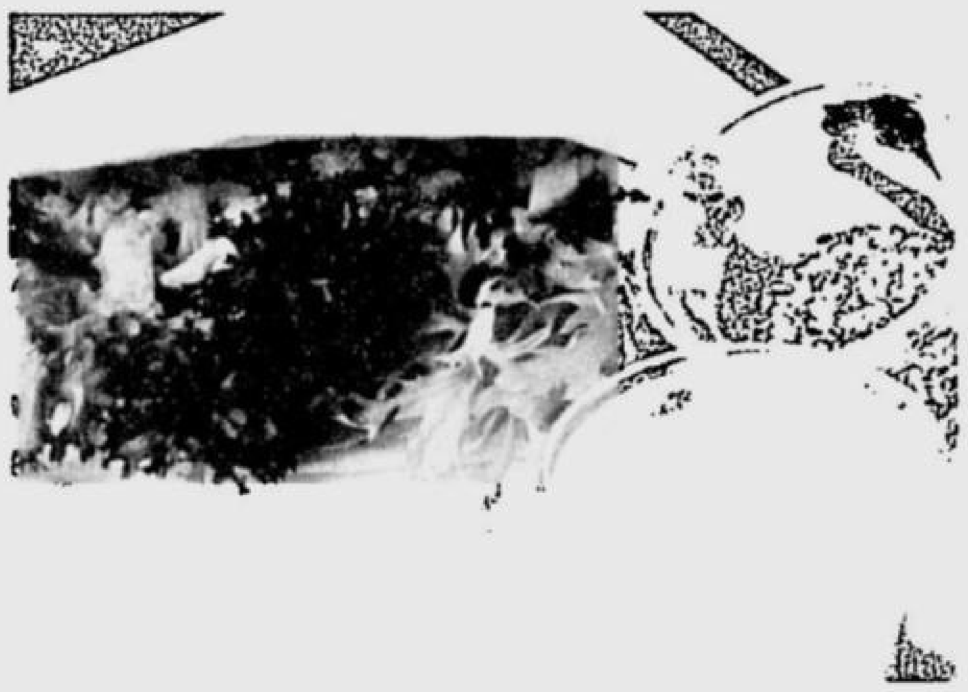
Top chefs name their choices

Lechon Cebu, definitely! It is full of flavor, and all you need is garlic-flavored vinegar and *puso*.
—Jill Sandique (Pastry Chef)

I like the Porquitos Lechon in Davao. It's the best. With or without the sauce, it's a winner. It's not at all fatty and perfectly seasoned. I can actually eat half of it in one sitting. It does not have that porky aftertaste, yet it is 100 percent porky!
—Reggie Aspiras (Caterer/Columnist)

I like the organic *lechon* in Quezon, from suppliers such as Earthkeepers.
—Paul Poblador (Kusina Salud)

New Treats from Old Feasts



chili/jalapeños, lime juice, a little olive oil and salt and pepper and a dash of cumin powder.

THE PEKING WRAP

You can do *pritchon* wraps on your own by deep-frying shredded lechon meat until crisp (or you can skip the calories and just warm it up in the microwave). Spread some warm hoisin sauce over the tortillas, top with julienned leeks and cucumber, add the crispy fried lechon and roll them up. Secure with a toothpick before serving.

MY SHAWARMA

Stuff warm pita bread with shredded leftover lechon meat and grilled onions, tomatoes and zucchini (you may also want to add some grilled mushrooms and eggplant) and drizzle with garlic sauce.

To make garlic sauce: Combine 1 cup of mayonnaise with 1 pack of plain yogurt, 2 tablespoons of minced garlic, some minced cilantro and a dash of cayenne pepper. •

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	7	1	2					
	8			7				
	5		1					
6			9					
	1	2				4	5	
					6			2
					4		3	
				5			7	
					8	9	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Answer to previous puzzle

4	2	5	9	8	7	3	6	1
7	8	6	3	5	1	9	4	2
1	3	9	4	2	6	8	5	7
9	1	2	6	3	4	5	7	8
5	6	8	7	9	2	1	3	4
3	4	7	5	1	8	6	2	9
6	9	4	8	7	3	2	1	5
2	5	3	1	4	9	7	8	6
8	7	1	2	6	5	4	[illegible]	[illegible]

★★★★

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adds that they use a baby pig because the taste of its meat is not adulterated, since it doesn't eat feeds yet. The *pritchon* is served with pita bread and a variety of sauces (hoisin, mustard liver, honey lemon, among others) that his wife Dina makes. It has become such a hit that they are often called to serve *pritchon* at Malacañang and at other high brow events. (An order costs P4,200 but is good for 40 people, comes with 80 to 100 pita slices plus all the sauces, and includes the service of a waiter who can expertly cut the pritchon. Call tel. nos. 921-0405 or 921-0415 or 0918-531 8851; pritchon.com.)

Whatever the stuffing, whatever the procedure, in a large way we Filipinos find common ground with this fiesta staple. The tradition of serving *lechon* during a fiesta or other event reflects our culture of sharing and of opening our homes to guests, whether rich or common folk. It reflects our love for rich textures and contrasting tastes in the palate, the mix of the crispy skin and the gooey fat; the sometimes slightly salty *recados* versus the sometimes sweet *timplado*. Most amusing for me is the tradition of having the pig's head stare at you while eating a practice I can never explain to foreigners, while being greatly reflective of our sense of humor. But most amazing is the pig. Look at it after all it's been through, it's still smiling! •

What's your favorite 'lechon'?

Top chefs name their choices

Lechon Cebu, definitely! It is full of flavor, and all you need is garlic-flavored vinegar and *puso*.
—Jill Sandique (Pastry Chef)

I like the Porquitos Lechon in Davao. It's the best. With or without the sauce, it's a winner. It's not at all fatty and perfectly seasoned. I can actually eat half of it in one sitting. It does not have that porky aftertaste, yet it is 100 percent porky!
—Reggie Aspiras (Caterer/Columnist)

I like the organic *lechon* in Quezon, from suppliers such as Earthkeepers.
—Paul Poblador (Kusina Salud)

chili/jalapeños, lime juice, a little olive oil and salt and pepper and a dash of cumin powder.

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Whisky 101 Straight Up (from page 2)

end of the day, it's subjective, and goes down to personal taste, as whisky flavors range from a 'powerful robust smoky' (e.g. Johnny Walker) to 'soft sweet gentle fruity floral' (e.g. Glenlivet). You will have a lot of options and price points to choose from."

When asked what kind of whisky would he prefer to receive, he said Chivas Regal 18, though the ultimate tribute would be a Royal Salute 21, which he likened to a Bentley. Royal Salute 21 was created in 1953 for Queen Elizabeth's coronation, and was aged 21 years for the 21-gun salute, the highest honor given to heads of state. If this impresses in 2003, during Queen Elizabeth's golden jubilee, Chivas Brother's created the limited edition Royal Salute 50, with only 222 bottles, selling at U$10,000 a bottle. If this still fails to boggle the mind, earlier this year the Westin Turnberry Resort in Ayrshire created the The Golden Centine, costing £1,906, for the 100th year anniversary of the resort. The cocktail contains Glenfiddich 1977 (Scotch whisky) private vintage, Grand Marnier Cent Cinquantenaire, and Dom Perignon 1966 (champagne). As of press time, no confirmed data yet on whether anyone has ever ordered this drink.

So what's so hot about this drink which burns like fire and causes a tingling sensation all the way to one's toes? Well, if its history, complex distillation process and distinct flavors don't convince you, best stick to beer. •

Whisky trivia:

1.There are only 104 calories in an ounce and a half of whisky, which is less than a standard glass of wine or half a pint of beer.
2.The first bottle of the oldest commercially bottled whisky was given to Sir Edmund Hlillary, the first man to climb Mt. Everest.
3. The term "The Real McCoy refers to scotch whisky smuggled into the U.S. during the Prohibition Era by Captain Bill McCoy.
4. Queen Victoria enjoyed her daily tea spiked with whisky.
5. Drinking four whiskies a day can be healthy, according to British Medical Association, because it promotes good appetite and sound sleep and decreases stress.
6. Whisky is among Britain's top five exports. One out of every 50 jobs in Scotland is in the production of whisky. •

A Sweet Life from Sweet Meat (

What started as a home industry is now a state-of-the-art meat processing plant located on 9.6 hectares of land in San Fernando, Pampanga, with at least a thousand workers and outlets and distributors that have recently spilled over to the Middle East.

Says Lolita with pride: "*Tocino* has become a poor man's viand considering its fairly low price, excellent quality and taste. We primarily cater to the C, D, E market."

Explaining how her product has withstood changing food trends and the recent swing to health-conscious diets, she says, "God surely works in wonderful ways to protect people from unhealthy food. Our *tocino* has minimal fat content, does not use preservatives and has less sugar content that prevents burning in the pan when the meat is being cooked."

The business' success, however, meant that the elder Hizon siblings had to stand in as parents to the younger ones, says Carlo Hizon, 33, and 10th among 12 siblings. "But we came to understand that mom had to divide her time between home and factory for the betterment of the family." Far from resenting the added responsibility that came with the business, Carlo says that "it has been a source of motivation for us to work even harder because we are feeding not only our own family, but other families who look to us as a source of livelihood."

The Hizon family

At the same time, Carlo acknowledges a downside: "Having been involved in the business at a very early age, most of my elder siblings dropped out of their studies." Fortunately, he persevered and graduated with a degree in Commerce major in Business Management at the University of the Assumption in Pampanga.

The business' prodigious earnings have afforded the family regular cruise vacations, with the 12 children, their spouses and 48 grandchildren taking turns managing the business and taking a break.

As for her, Lolita says, a source of deep satisfaction these days is "serving God, my family and my barrio mates through the IBACA Foundation that gives senior citizens a monthly stipend. The Foundation also helps dialysis patients, has a feeding program, and leads a flock in learning the Bible."

Although he is now executive vice president of Pampanga's Best, Carlo and his family live very simple lives. "Seldom would I be found in civic circles, or among socialites. The children, too, have taken after us, their parents, and are keeping a very low profile. They live in their own houses that the company has built for them."

They have also remained fiercely filial, or at least Carlo has. Literally weaned on processed meats, he remains his mom's best endorser. His favorite dish, he swears, is *tocino*. "I have it for breakfast with slices of tomatoes, fried rice and vinegar. It's always a treat to eat in the mornings, though they're also good for lunch and dinner." •

Hooray for 'Sisig'!

The favorite, sinful Pinoy 'pulutan' is just as big a hit as 'ulam'

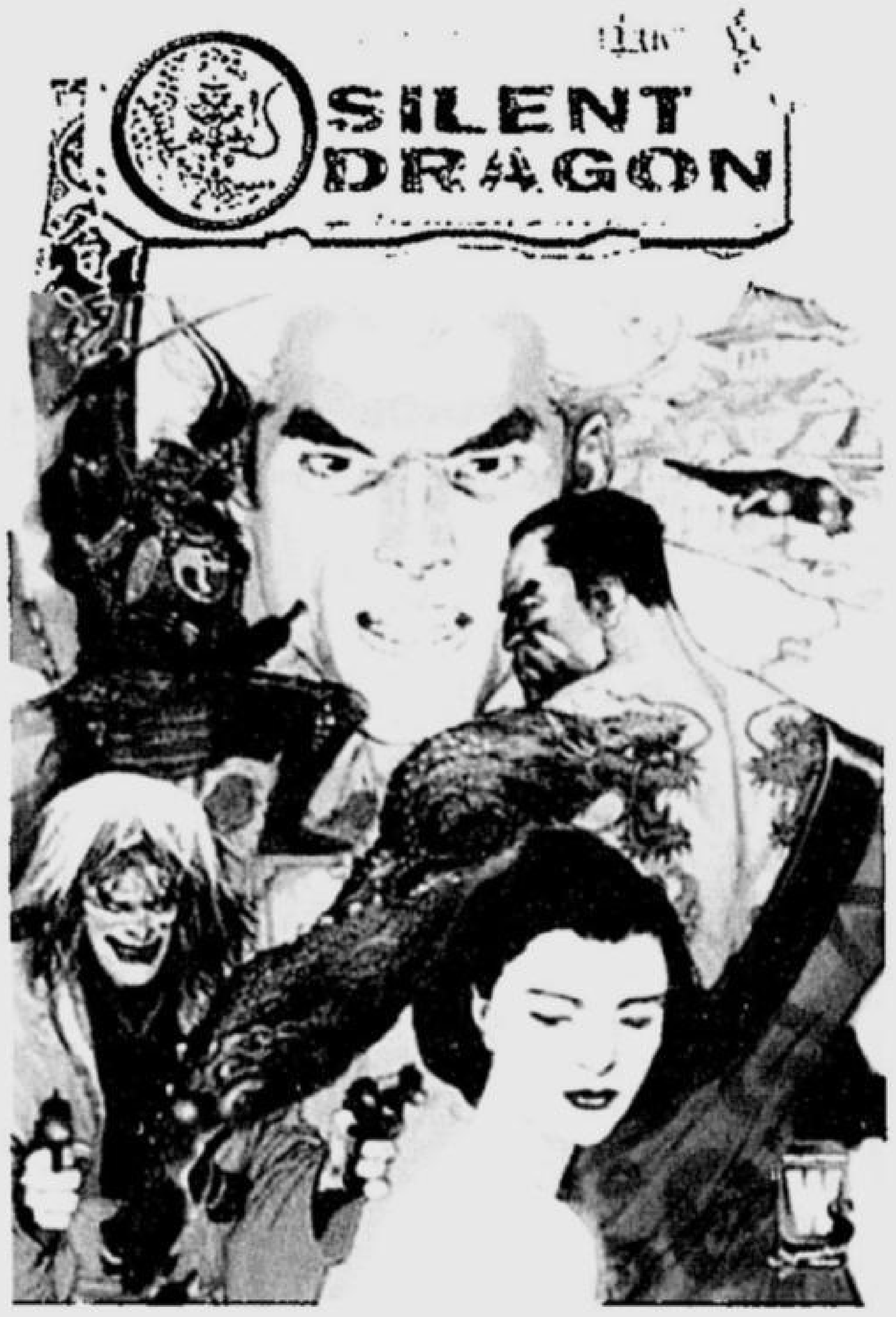
SISIG HOORAY!
Pulutan?
o Ulam?
OPEN

Rudy Esperas

OUR fearless forecast for what could very well be the next food craze is *sisig*, that sinfully gelatinous melange of grilled pig cheeks and other choice porcine bits, flavored with onions and spices, which is the de facto national *pulutan*. Usually, one has to go to a restaurant or grill, or travel all the way to Pampanga's famous railside *sisigan* to enjoy this dish. Until last year, that is, when the first Sisig Hooray outlet opened. The brainchild of veteran caterer Tong Balce, who noticed that just as many people were ordering *sisig* with rice as with beer, Sisig Hooray is basically *sisig*-to-go, prepared while you wait in a bravura performance of flashing cleavers. Balce's recipe adds a little more zing to the mix with powdered *chicharon*. *Sisig* enthusiasts breathed a collective "hooray!" with each new branch opening. There are currently eight, including one at the LRT-2 Recto terminal, which only goes to show that any time can be sisig time. There is usually a long line of customers patiently salivating at the counter while the chefs slice and dice their order, either a single serving with rice, or a party pack, or for the cholesterol-conscious, the chicken variant. **Eric S. Caruncho**

Sisig Hooray has branches in Market! Market! Global Center, Metro Point Pasay Taft, LRT Recto, Ever Gotesco Ortigas, Ever Gotesco Commonwealth QC, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Cainta, Marikina Riverbanks and Shopwise Cubao.

DRAGON BRAWL



WHITE-HOT Filipino comic book artist Leinil Francis Yu has drawn Superman, Wolverine and is the man in charge of art chores on "The New Avengers." Yet if you want to see Yu at his visual lethal best, then unsheath "Silent Dragon" (WildStorm/DC, available at Fully Booked; P999). This trade paperback collects the six-issue limited series from Yu and writer Andy Diggle ("The Losers"). It's a bizarrely compelling read, a cyberpunk Samurai adventure set in Tokyo 2063. It's a beautifully violent tale of vengeance and honor. When the influential Yakuza lord Hideaki is led to believe his Samurai bodyguard Renjiro has betrayed him, Hideaki has him killed. Yet Renjiro is somehow reengineered into the cybernetic arms dealer Reizo. Now Renjiro plots not only his revenge but to return to the woman he loves, Takara—who also is Hideaki's wife. As is the case with Diggle's sleek plots, all is not what it seems and there is more at work here than anyone suspects. "Silent Dragon's" blade, bullet and ballet action—with a generous serving of mecha mayhem—is perfect for Yu's intensely kinetic line work, as well as the inks from Filipino inker extraordinaire Gerry Alanguilan. The two wield their implements like finely honed blades. "Silent Dragon" is an over-the-top comic book battle royale incorporating elements from history and the future, plus a lethal Pinoy touch. **Ruel S. De Vera**

WITHOUT TAKING THE SLOW BOAT TO CHINA

IF you want good but cheap Chinese food without going all the way to Chinatown, you might want to try Flavors of China, which has a branch in most malls. The servings are humongous and the prices so retro, you're bound to do a double take: rice toppings for P78? Soup of the day for P45? Vegetable dishes starting at P75? Steamed fish fillet in garlic soy sauce for P120? Noodles from P70? Even the Yangchow fried rice is just P75 and should be enough to feed three to four ravenous friends. Most beef, chicken and pork dishes start at P125, the dimsum from P45, while the fish and seafood dishes go for P120 up. Tasty, too! There's even a bowl of free kropek to keep you occupied while you're waiting for your orders.

Another plus: the fastfood prices come with understated Japanese ambience at this branch in The Block, SM North. But if you miss the red and gold dragons on the wall, there's always Ongpin. **Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz**

the perfect
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b/ low jeans by
bench/
Overhauled
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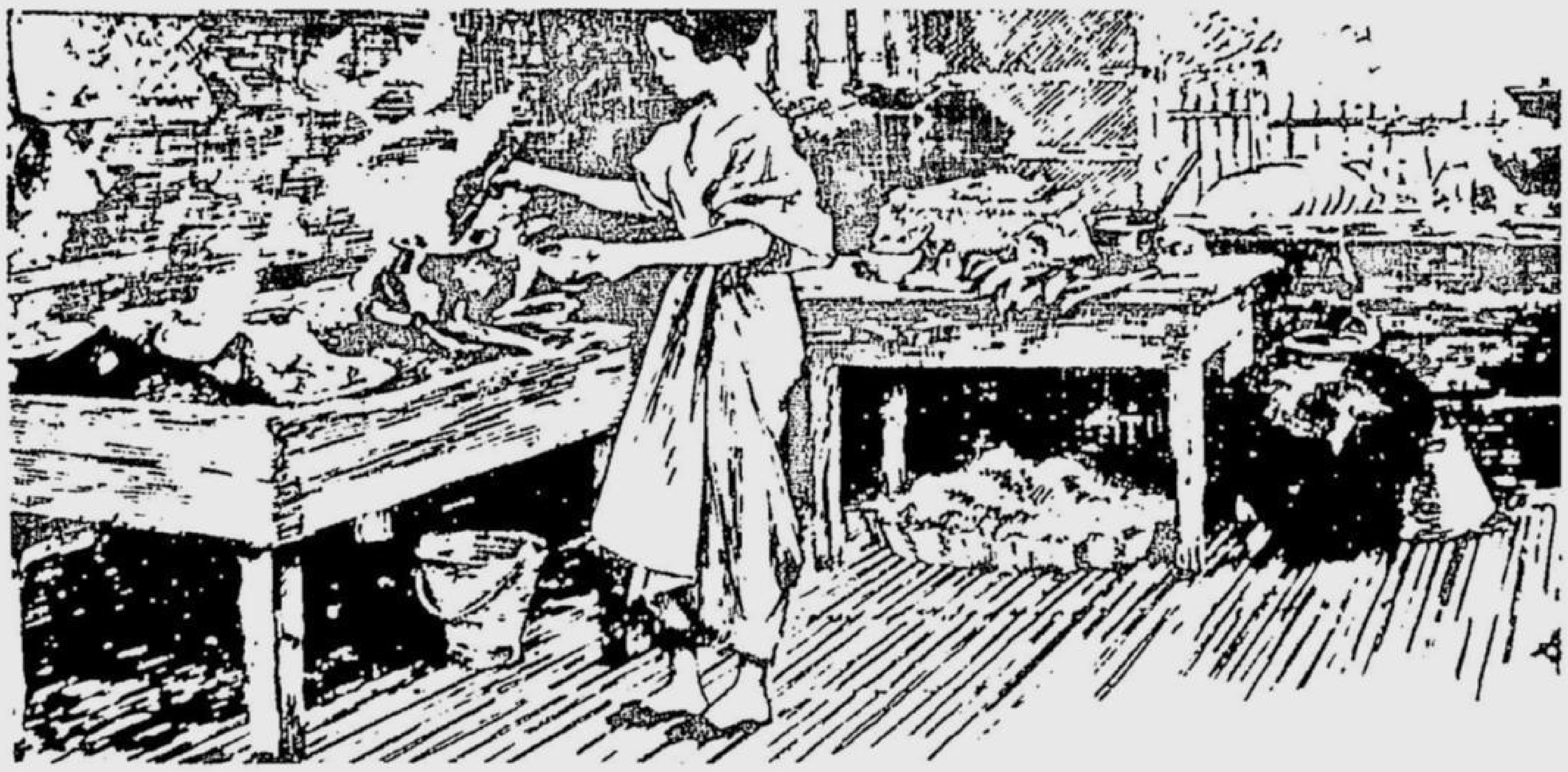
THE OLD DAYS IN THE KITCHEN



LONG before the advent of Ariston stoves and Sub-Zero refs, Pinoys cooked their meals over an old-fashioned stove, the *kalan*. In her piece on the common kitchen fixture in "Filipino Heritage," Felice P. Sta. Maria referred to the kitchen as "the center of home life. There was always someone around—the mother, the cook or the help—preparing a vast variety of unwritten heirloom recipes for mealtime and *meriendas*." The *kalan* would be fed constantly with firewood, ingredients would be fresh, preparation was a must, and there was never a shortage of helping hands among the womenfolk to chop, cut, clean, and serve. The solitary *hausfrau* in this drawing by the late National Artist Fernando Amorsolo of a kitchen in the early 1900s was seemingly engaged in a daily routine, and not overwhelmed by a feast of Pinoy fiesta proportions. Nowadays, we've got catering. Sigh. **Drawing reprinted from "Filipino Heritage"**

happy feet. hot flats.
happy holidays!
HAPPY FEET